

Hafa Adai!

LibDay committee adopts theme, offers \$20K prize for best floats. **PAGE 2**

Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival set for April 19. **PAGE 3**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

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THURSDAY APRIL 11, 2024

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IPI agrees to pay \$24M in 2024



» CCC OKs Yeom's request for 10 days to complete unresolved 10% in settlement deal
» AAG Glass allegedly interrupts negotiations

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission board granted yesterday afternoon CCC executive director Andrew Yeom's request for an additional 10 business days to pursue a settlement agreement with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

See IPI on Page 4

Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Andrew Yeom talks about his proposed settlement deal with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC before the CCC board during a special meeting yesterday. Beside him is his counsel, assistant attorney general Alison Nelson. In the back, from left, are assistant attorney general Lucy Blanco, Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan), and assistant attorney general Robert Glass.

/FERDIE DE LA TORRE

RTTC delinquent in filing annual corporation reports for six years

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Registrar of Corporations has found that Rota Terminal and Transfer Co. Inc. is delinquent in filing its annual corporation reports for the years 2018 through 2023.

Registrar of Corporations' Remedio C. Mafnas notified RTTC president and Victor B. Hocog and RTTC secretary Lola H. Marasigan last March 28 that their outstanding

See RTTC on Page 4



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

File photo of the Rota Terminal and Transfer Co. Inc., behind a ship, on Rota's West Harbor.

IN REGARDS TO CNMI FLAG BURNING 'We want peace'

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lino Olopai, a renowned elder in the CNMI community as well as one of the many champions of the CNMI's flag as we know it

today, expressed his disappointment in the recent events wherein the CNMI's flag was burned by a man who claims that it's not a true representation of the indigenous people of the CNMI.

Last April 2, Raymond

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Olopai



Quitugua

Senate passes bill to appropriate \$5.2M to pay retirees' 25% pension benefits

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate unanimously passed late afternoon yesterday a bill that will appropriate \$5.2 million of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for payment

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INSIDE



LOCAL

Saipan International School proudly announces that one of its outstanding juniors, Ian Song, has been selected for the prestigious West Point Preparatory Program.

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BUSINESS

Plumeria Steakhouse is offering the best of both worlds—or in this case of all worlds—with the launch of its fusion \$14.95 lunch buffet last March.

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LIFE & STYLE

Winter, apparently, is not coming back. Kit Harington has shut down talk of a Jon Snow sequel to HBO's massive hit "Game of Thrones."

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Local

LibDay committee adopts theme, offers \$20K prize for best floats

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**

chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The 2024 Liberation Day Committee has adopted the theme “Honoring memories from the past with moments of today” for this year’s festivities this coming July.

In addition, the LibDay committee said it will award a total of \$20,000 to winners of four best float categories.

The theme and prizemoney for winning floats were announced during a press conference last Tuesday that was also attended by Saipan Mayor Ramon Blas “RB” Camacho.

The LibDay committee said it has a big task ahead as the festivities taking place that week will not only commemorate liberation from Camp Susupe after World War II, but will also incorporate the 80th year anniversary of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian.

Delbert Pua, who chairs the LibDay committee, shared the goal this year is not only to provide family friendly activities, but also educate the younger generation on the reason behind the



Saipan Mayor Ramon Blas “RB” Camacho and the 2024 Liberation Day Committee pose for a photo after a press conference last Tuesday at the Saipan Mayor’s Office in Susupe.

Liberation Day celebration.

“For this year’s 78th Liberation it’s very important that we reflect, just like our slogan, and start educating our young children about Camp Susupe,” he said.

The LibDay Committee, Pua said, wants to convey that Liberation Day is not

only about fireworks, popcorn, and cotton candy.

“This is an educational awareness that we want to restore back and reintroduce it to our young generation that are not well aware of Camp Susupe. This year’s motto is ‘Honoring memories from the past with moments of today.’

We want to fill that gap and make our young generation understand why it’s so important to be well aware with this slogan. Because that was the time when our Chamorros and Refaluwasch were given an opportunity to go back to their normal life.”

Pua shared that along with

the traditional festivities, they will also be scheduling movie nights that will hopefully help better inform the younger generation about World War II and Camp Susupe.

Committee board member and parade coordinator Priscilla Iakopo also shared that they are currently looking for more candidates to join this year’s Royal Court with the April 19 application deadline fast approaching, although she bared the application window maybe extended to the end of May.

“You must be a born female, 16-25 years old, a permanent resident of the CNMI, as well as other criteria. We really encourage anyone who is interested to come to the Saipan Mayor’s Office or visit our social media [pages] and website,” she said.

Pua added they were also hoping to see some candidates not just from Saipan, but also from Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands.

“What mayor Camacho wants to emphasize is that the Liberation Day queen continues to be a role model within our community and serve as an ambassador whether here on island or off-island,” Iakopo added.

On the Liberation Day pa-

rade route, Pua shared that this will be one of the committee’s biggest challenges due to the ongoing construction along Beach Road.

“What I can say is that we are personally communicating with the secretary of the [Department of Public Works]. We’re hoping they can finish that road construction by July. If worse comes to worse, we will have to find a parade route that we will be able to accommodate our community. So right now, I don’t want to speculate on anything and say it’s going to be done by July. I think that question should be referred back to DPW.”

Camacho added that there are a lot of other parade routes that they are looking at and hopefully in two to three weeks’ time, they should have a concrete decision.

He also extended an invitation to businesses, the private and public sectors, and community members to join the 2024 Liberation Day festivities.

“I’m humbly asking the public, business community, and the non-profit groups to join us. If we all are connected there’s nothing impossible in our islands. Let’s show the youth that we are all working together. It’s a diverse community, just one island, one CNMI. So as a mayor I want to see us all of us working together to promote our islands to our visitors and our own kids.”

Aside from Pua and Iakopo, the 2024 Liberation Day Committee is also made up of vice chair Edmond Borja, board member Toni Songao, board member and concessions chair Frankie Camacho, secretary and sponsorship chair Pearl Kaipat, marketing chair Jeanette Sarabia, marketing member Milli Camacho, concessions chair Beverly Javier, logistics chair Jojo Attao, treasurer and finance chair Joylynn Atalig, hospitality chair Frances Sablan, entertainment chair Gordon Marciano, grandstand chair Vivian Sablan, and Royal Court chair Bridgette Maratita Deleon Guerrero.

Public invited to climate action presentation

All community members are invited to a presentation on the CNMI’s Priority Climate Action Plan today, April 11, 2024, at the American Memorial Park Visitor Center starting at 5:30pm. To join virtually, visit bit.ly/CNMI-ClimateAction. The Office of the Governor’s Climate Policy and Planning Program will present the results of the CNMI’s first greenhouse gas

emissions inventory and share proposed priority actions to reduce emissions and provide benefits to the community. Discussion and Q&A will follow. This initiative is funded by a climate pollution reduction planning grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. For more information, contact CPP special assistant Tina Sablan at (670) 664-8527 or tina.sablan@gov.mp. (PR)

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Masayos to attend FBI National Academy



OAG
From left, FBI Saipan senior resident agent Rick Bauer, Office of Attorney General chief investigator Ikluk Masayos, and Attorney General Edward Manibusan.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan is pleased to announce the nomination and acceptance of Attorney General chief investigator Ikluk Masayos to attend the 292nd Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

The FBINA is a professional 10-week course of study for U.S. and international law enforcement leaders, which serves to improve the administration of justice in police departments and agencies at home and abroad, and to raise law enforcement standards, knowledge, and cooperation worldwide. Its mission is to support, promote, and enhance the personal and professional development of law enforcement leaders by preparing them for complex, dynamic and contemporary challenges through innovative techniques, facilitating excellence in education and research, and forging partnerships throughout the world.

Masayos was hired by the OAG in January 2019 as an investigator III and promoted to chief investigator in September 2022. Prior to joining the OAG, he worked as a police officer for the CNMI Department of Public Safety.

Manibusan states, "I look forward to chief investigator Masayos' attendance at this prestigious academy and I am certain that he will im-

prove not only his skills as an investigator but also his personal and professional growth as a law enforcement officer. I extend my appreciation to the FBI for their support and assistance in the nomination process and look forward to future partnerships with their agency."

"The FBI is proud to send chief investigator Masayos to the FBI National Academy and represent the Honolulu Division," said FBI special agent-in-charge Steven Merrill. "This program shows the great partnership we have with the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Attorney General's Office as we continue to strengthen our relationship with them."

"I am grateful for the Attorney General's nomination and support. I am excited at the opportunity to gain valuable experience and knowledge that will effectively improve the enforcement of our laws and the safety of our CNMI community," said Masayos.

Masayos is currently enrolled in the Master's Program for Public Administration in the University of Guam. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Chamade University of Honolulu, Hawaii and earned his Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from the Northern Marianas College. (PR)

Annual Flame Tree Festival set for April 19

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 43rd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival is set to begin next week, April 19, and will be held at the Garapan Fishing base.

According to Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture director Gloriana Teuira, the annual Flame Tree Arts Festival will revolve around the theme "Healing, Bridging, Prosperity."

This year's event, Teuira said, will be different as there will be more performers and the event will honor both liv-

ing and fallen local artists.

"It's going to be a little different from previous years because of the high demand for performers. We have a couple of groups that have retired over the years and decided to regroup and come back this year. The opening program will also honor local artists and artisans for sharing their unique talents and for helping perpetuate local culture, customs and traditions. Local singers Henry Manalo and Edwin Kaipat, folk artist Flowerpot Salas, traditional dancer Rosalina Ruloked and tradi-

tional weaver Pedro Matogai are artists that have passed on, and we will be dedicating the Flame Tree Arts Festival to them," Teuira said.

In addition, Teuira said with about 35 artists and 40 vendors participating in this year's festival, the new challenge will be providing enough space for vendors and displays.

"The space at Garapan Fishing Base is a bit small for all the vendors and displays. We are now working with the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services to give us less of the required 12 feet for

spacing of the vendors and booths. We are trying to work with them to cut it to six feet so we can extend and give the artists more space," she said.

Teuira said the Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival is an important event that promotes local culture, customs, and traditions.

"We must keep the culture alive, to keep it going, and try to interest the children, and convince them because they are the ones who will continue it."

Among the main sponsors for this year's festival are Bridge Capital, Bank of Guam, and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

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ARTICLES OF DISSOLUTION of

KS CHANG CORP., a CNMI corporation. ("Corporation")
DOES HEREBY CERTIFY: K.S. Chang Corp.

First: That dissolution has been authorized by the Corporation on April 4, 2024.

Second: That dissolution has been authorized in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 14, Subchapter A, Section 14.02 of the CNMI Corporation Regulations.

Third: That process may be served against the Corporation at the following address: P.O. Box 502777 Saipan, MP 96950

Fourth: That a resolution proposing dissolution has been adopted and approved by the majority of the shareholders.

Fifth: That NUMBER votes can be cast and two votes were cast in favor of this dissolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, said K.S. Chang Corporation has caused this Article of Dissolution to be signed by Kim Sung Mee, its president, this 4th day of April, 2024.

/s/ Kim, Sung Mee
President

TurnKey Solutions donates \$1K to 2024 MMAC

TurnKey Solutions joins the 2024 Marianas March Against Cancer as a major sponsor following their inaugural donation of \$1,000. TurnKey Solutions' generous contribution emphasizes its commitment to making a tangible impact on this critical health issue.

The 2024 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on May 3, 2023, from 3pm to 11pm at the CPA Airport Field.

There will be four tiers of

sponsorship packages: The first is at \$10,000, and that sponsorship is usually represented on the MMAC shirt. The second one is \$8,000-plus, the third \$3,000-plus, and fourth is \$1,000-plus. They will also recognize \$500 and up sponsorships. This includes in-kind and monetary donations.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact: mmac.sponsorship@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, there are six

tiers of entry for participating teams: Pulan for families and Napu for schools, will cost \$300 for both; Atdao for non-profits, \$399; Tano for non-profit organizations partnering with a school, educational institution or government agency, \$500; Puti'on for corporations, \$550; and Tasi for corporations partnering with a family, non-profit organization or school, \$750. (PR)



From left, TurnKey Solutions' Jerry Lin, Broc Calvo, Natasha Palacios, Jocelyn F. Deleon Guerrero, Liana Coterio, Adrian Tangcoy, and Tony Atalig pose with the facsimile giant \$1,000 check donation to the 2024 Marianas March Against Cancer.

RTTC

From page 1

annual reports remain a violation of the CNMI Business Corporation Regulation Act.

Saipan Tribune's email to Hocog requesting for comments was not returned as of press time yesterday.

Mafnas said pursuant to the Administrative Code, effective immediately RTTC is prohibited from conducting any business activities until the outstanding reports are filed within 60 days and any associated fees and penalties are settled and until all tax arrears have been satisfied.

She said pursuant to the Administrative Code, corporations that fail to file required reports for an extended period may be subject to administrative dissolution by the Regis-

trar of Corporations.

"This action effectively terminates the corporation's legal existence and prohibits it from conducting business," Mafnas told Hocog and Marasigan.

Pedro Q. Dela Cruz, an agent for Seabridge Isla Shipping Company, wrote recently to Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Jose C. Ayuyu, stating that the sudden rate increase the RTTC imposed for stevedoring services and equipment use at the Rota port will create "economic chaos" on Rota, with the action having an immense multiplier effect.

Dela Cruz urged Ayuyu to immediately intervene and advise RTTC to hold off on the rate increase until CPA reviews the contract terms and condition relative to the overall RTTC operation, particularly the compliance of the published tariff.

whether Hofschneider can offer the amendments considering he is not a member of the committee.

To stop the argument, Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) co-sponsored the floor amendments.

The senators then adopted the amendments and subsequently passed the legislation.

The House fast-tracked the passage last March 28 of the bill, which was introduced on that same day by Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan).

Attao stated that if the Legislature does not act on it, 25% of retirees' pension will be reduced, if not suspended, by April 15, 2024.

IPI

From page 1

With no objection from the commissioners, CCC board vice chair Rafael S. Demapan gave Yeom until April 22, 2024 at 10am to complete the final details of the deal.

Demapan said hopefully this will be the last request as whether a stipulated settlement agreement is signed by the Office of Attorney General or not, they are going to proceed whether to revoke or not IPI's exclusive gaming license.

Asked by Demapan what really transpired during the negotiations with IPI, Yeom said this settlement if it does occur would definitely have significant impact on the board's decision.

Yeom said under their draft stipulation agreement, IPI will pay a total of \$24 million in 2024.

He said IPI shall pay \$3.1 million for the 2020 regulatory fee by April 22, 2024.

Aside from paying the 2020 regulatory fee, IPI agrees to pay \$6.8 million as the discounted arrears of 2021 regulatory fee, 2022 regulatory fee, and 2023 regulatory fee, along with \$2 million discounted penalty, or for a total of \$8.8 million as stipulated arrears in accordance with a payment plan.

Separate from the stipulated arrears, IPI agrees to pay \$1.1 million on Oct. 1, 2024 for the 2024 regulatory fee as they come due in October 2024, provided that if the law is unchanged, then the \$2 million in balance be deferred though Aug. 30, 2039.

IPI agrees to pay the 2020 license fee in the amount of \$15.5 million on July 18, 2024, and \$5.5 million for the 2024 license fee in advance by July 15, 2024 for the payment that will be due on Aug. 12, 2024, provided that if the law remains unchanged, then the \$10 million in balance be deferred through April 30, 2039.

Yeom said IPI agreed they will not challenge the CNMI Legislature or the government to amend the gaming statute to allow multiple casino licenses.

He said IPI also would immediately dismiss the current lawsuits against the CCC and Gov. Arnold I. Palacios with prejudice.

Yeom said IPI will also forfeit their license without challenging the status quo in case of any default in the terms of the settlement agreement.

He said IPI will forfeit voluntarily all their right to appeal to the Superior Court.

"That is how good of a deal this is," Yeom pointed out.

Yeom said assistant attorney general Alison Nelson has been with him all the

way and in fact she's the one who drafted this proposed settlement agreement.

Yeom said it is safe to say that he worked under the guidance of the OAG until another attorney from OAG came and told him something is conflicting.

The director identified the OAG attorney as assistant attorney general Robert Glass.

Glass came in to watch the special meeting shortly after Yeom just mentioned his name.

"And that's when I found out there are certain things may not be, you know, legally sufficient or insufficient," he said.

Yeom said he had to kind of stop the negotiations because Glass was talking about not recommending the proposed stipulated settlement agreement to Attorney General Edward Manibusan as it's not legally sufficient.

"This is about 90% done! We still need some more to go and we were working on that. But that's when the discussion was interrupted when the other assistant AG appeared to tell him that it may not be legally sufficient.

"So that's where that's where things have stalled," Yeom said.

Commissioner Ramon Dela Cruz said it appears to him that there must be confusion within the OAG and that he

stands to be corrected if none.

Dela Cruz said they have three assistant attorneys general assigned to CCC, then Glass came into the picture.

"It appears to be a lot of moving parts here coming from the Attorney General's Office," the commissioner said.

Nelson said Glass has been representing the Commonwealth in litigation that has been filed against the Commonwealth relating to these proceedings and so he has been representing the attorney general's interests now and in reviewing whether this is sufficient for formal legal submissions.

Before the voting to the motion to approve Yeom's request for additional 10 days, Demapan asked IPI director/manager Howyo Chi to speak about the 10% remaining unresolved in the stipulated settlement agreement.

Chi said he feels like they're very close in coming to a settlement agreement with Yeom, but that obviously there are some language that needs to be worked on.

Chi said Yeom also likes to add bankruptcy protections and that they (IPI) also have consulted their bankruptcy attorney as well.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

PENSION

From page 1

of the 25% pension benefits for all government retirees.

All nine senators adopted during an emergency session the amendments to the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee report that recommends the passage of House Bill No. 23-104, HD1, SD1.

All nine senators subsequently voted "yes" to pass the legislation.

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) made the floor amendments to the committee report to correct some errors, but Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) questioned

PEACE

From page 1

Quitugua posted a public video—which circulated like wild fire within the CNMI community—of him burning the flag while verbally denouncing it claiming it is not a true representation of the indigenous people of the CNMI.

Because the CNMI Constitution prohibits the burning of the CNMI flag, *Saipan Tribune* learned that the Department of Public Safety and the Office of the Attorney General launched an investigation into the flag-burning incident but as of press time, no charges have been filed.

In an interview with Quitugua, he said he believes the

true CNMI flag was the initial design presented back in the 1970s that featured a latte stone with a star in the front of it on a field of blue.

He claims this flag accurately represents the indigenous people of the CNMI which he believes is the Chamorro community (not including the Carolinian community).

Quitugua added that he burned the flag as a form of protest, and he intends to take the issue to the Judiciary.

Meanwhile, in an interview with Olopai (a renowned advocate for the indigenous traditions of the CNMI as well as one of the champions that fought for today's CNMI flag design back in the 1970), he said he was very insulted by the flag-burning video that

Quitugua posted online.

"The flag-burning was very insulting to all of us, especially to...us who [fought for] the design of [our CNMI flag today]. The flag stands for many things, specifically the indigenous people of the CNMI who are the Chamorros and Carolinians. As we all know, the latte stone represents the Chamorro community and the *mwaar* represents the Carolinian community. The flag holds a lot of significance. Many of us stand firm in protecting who we are [and] that flag is who we are," he said.

When asked what he thinks should be done about the flag-burning, Olopai said he believes the crime warrants jail time.

"[I believe] this person who burned the flag should be thrown in jail. We are beyond that. Burning anyone else's flag, it's just wrong. We want peace," he said.

Olopai explained that before the end of the Second World War, there was a lot of discrimination between the two indigenous communities in the CNMI. He added that he believed that the two communities found peace as a result of both communities coming together in marriage through the years. However, it seems as though some people in the community have taken a step back.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

ARTICLE OF DISSOLUTION of

QL Corporation, a CNMI Company/Corporation
Does Hereby Certify QL Corporation

First: That dissolution has been authorized by the company on December 31, 2021.

Second: That dissolution has been authorized in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 14, Subchapter A, Section 14.02 of the CNMI Corporation regulations.

Third: That process may be serve against the corporation at the following address: PMB 498C BOX 10003, Saipan MP 96950

Fourth: That a resolution proposing dissolution has been adopted and approved by the majority of the shareholders.

Fifth: That number votes can be cast and two votes were cast in favor of this dissolution.

In Witness Whereof, Said QL Corporation has caused this article of dissolution to be signed by following Board of Directors at this 31st day of October, 2023.

Approved By:
/s/ Yongqing Zhu
President

/s/ ZhiLiang Xiao
Vice-President

/s/ Jonneth Q. Viemes
Secretary/Treasurer

Song selected for West Point prep program

Saipan International School proudly announces that one of its outstanding juniors, Ian Song, has been selected for the prestigious West Point Preparatory Program. This achievement underscores Song's leadership qualities, academic prowess, and commitment to serving his country. This also marks the first time a student from SIS has been selected

Manta Ray Battalion takes part in WWII 80th anniversary tour

Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion JROTC cadets and their senior army instructor, CSM (Ret.) Richard Basa, participated in the World War II 80th anniversary tour conducted by Gordon Marciano last April 6.

A total of 41 Manta Ray Battalion JROTC cadets rose early on a Saturday morning to embark on a journey of historical discovery. Arriving at SSHS campus from 7am to 8am, the cadets boarded their bus, ready to absorb the knowledge awaited them. Led by Marciano, the cadets traversed the island, immersing themselves in the history of World War II sites, including Sugar Dock, Green Beach, Blue Beach, Yellow Beach, Red Beach, As Lito Complex, Route 36, Suicide Cliff, and Banzai Cliff.

"I enjoyed the experience on the tour of the island of Saipan. It showed me that there is more than you think of the lore of all of the shrines I believed didn't have a background, but most of them did and had a story behind all of them, and I learned about a lot of things about the Japanese and how our island was taken and retrieved," said C/SSG Colton Guinto.

C/SFC Jamie Deblois added, "I enjoyed the many scen-

eries and opportunities I got to experience on the WWII Tour. There are many sites I got to see for the first time, like the As Lito Complex, Suicide Cliff, and Route 36. I connected with my fellow cadets and learned much about what happened during the Battle of Saipan and Tinian. Overall, I enjoyed this experience and hope to pass down the historic facts I gained on this tour."

"The experience was truly profound. It opened my eyes to places and stories I was unaware of. The tour allowed me to empathize with our veterans' hardships and made me appreciate my circumstances. It was an unforgettable experience that has left a lasting impact on me," said C/CPT Kiani Pangelinan.

The Manta Ray Battalion, under the leadership of Basa would like to extend its deepest gratitude to Marciano.

"His expert guidance and insightful teachings during this extraordinary journey have significantly enhanced our cadets' understanding of our island's history, including myself. We are truly blessed to have had this opportunity and will carry the invaluable lessons learned on this tour into our future endeavors." (PR)

for this program, a testament to the school's dedication to nurturing leaders of tomorrow.

The West Point Preparatory Program, administered by the United States Military Academy at West Point, is a highly competitive initiative designed to prepare candidates for admission to the Academy. Participants undergo rigorous academic, physical, and leadership training to ensure they meet the high standards required for acceptance into West Point.

Song has consistently demonstrated exemplary dedication to his studies, extracurricular activities, and community service. He will spend the summer between his junior and senior year shuttling back and forth between the mainland and Saipan. In addition to flying to West Point on June 7, Song will be flying back to Iowa on June 16 as a member of the national team for speech and debate. Song won his spot for Humorous Interpretation but will also compete in Storytelling. Song was selected to advance in this category as a member of the 2023 NSDA CNMI Team.

"We are immensely proud of Ian's accomplishment," said Dr. Ron Snyder, headmaster of Saipan International School. "Ian has consistently displayed outstanding leadership both inside and outside the classroom, and we have every confidence that he will continue to be an amazing ambassador of SIS, the CNMI and the USA."

The West Point Preparatory Program will provide Song with the opportunity to further develop his leadership skills, physical fitness, and academic abilities in preparation for the challenges of attending West Point. Upon completion of the program, he will be well-prepared to pursue his goal of serving as an officer in the United States Army.

"I have been thinking about attending West Point throughout my high school career and am deeply honored to have been selected for the West Point Preparatory Program," said Song. "I didn't expect that I would be accepted and dropped everything to tell my mom as soon as I found out."

SIS extends its heartfelt congratulations to Song on this historic achievement and wishes him continued success in his future endeavors.

For more information about SIS, visit <https://www.saipaninternationalschool.com/>. (PR)

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NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2024-011	CDBG-DR Construction Inspector (1-Position)	UNGRADED \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 Per annum	April 11, 2024	April 26, 2024 4:00 PM
2024-012	CDBG-DR Accountant (1-Position) Re-Announcement	UNGRADED \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 Per annum	April 11, 2024	April 26, 2024 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhc.gov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Lamlau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhc.gov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhc.gov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Kill barred owls so spotted owls can live? Wildlife service should put plan on hold

There is something shocking about trying to save one species by killing nearly half a million of another species. That's what the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed in a plan to save the spotted owls of the northwestern United States from extinction by shooting hundreds of thousands of barred owls over three decades.

There's no question the number of spotted owls is dwindling precipitously as barred owls have muscled into their territory in Washington, Oregon, and—to a lesser extent—Northern California over the last 50 years.

This situation has pitted not just owl against owl, but also put animal welfare and conservation groups at odds with each other. In a letter to Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland sent on behalf of 75 animal welfare and wildlife advocacy groups, Animal Wellness Action President Wayne Pacelle and Scott Edwards, general counsel for the Center for a Humane Economy, called the plan “a colossally reckless action” which would doom the government to perpetual killing to keep the number of barred owls down.

On the other side, Kieran Suckling, the executive director of the Center for Biological Diversity—which has long fought to save the spotted owl—supports the plan. Without it, he says, the northern spotted owl in Oregon and Washington will go extinct and the California spotted owl will become endangered. “Nobody wants to see an owl killed, including ourselves,” he said.

Shooting any owl seems like a horrible idea, and the Fish and Wildlife Service should put this fraught plan on hold and look for other options. We know the government biologists didn't come to the plan lightly or quickly. The service has spent years testing its plan by killing a few thousand barred owls in smaller areas to see if spotted owl populations stayed stable. It did. But this is a far bigger plan covering far more territory.

Spotted owls, native to the area, are smaller and breed less often. Picky about where they nest and what they eat, they favor particularly cool and dark cozy cavities of old-growth trees, the supply of which has been dramatically reduced from decades of logging.

Barred owls, on the other hand, are somewhat bigger, more aggressive, and not above taking a spotting owl's locale and food supply. They have been known to kill spotted owls—as well as mate with them, producing what some biologists have nicknamed “sparred owls.” The Fish and Wildlife Service calls them hybrids and says they should be shot as well.

Yes, barred owls are technically “invasive.” But no one hand-carried them here as pets or imported them for food or entertainment. The barred owls spent the last century expanding their range from the east and Midwest of the U.S. and Canada and now they've been in the Pacific Northwest since the 1970s. They came here because they could.

This current predicament is a result of an ecological horror show—huge amounts of old-growth trees cut down, the in-

See KILL on Page 7



The boomer versus millennial grudge match is silly

At a recent family dinner, various younger relatives were talking about music streaming services and began to wonder aloud whether Pandora was still around. They, of course, use Spotify.

“Ask Mom,” said my 31-year-old millennial daughter.

“Yeah, Pandora is still around,” I said. “I use it all the time.”

Was their muffled laughter tinged with soupcon of condescension? Listen, I was just grateful no one said, “OK Boomer.”

Certainly, we are on opposite sides of a generation gap. If I weren't raising my 14-year-old niece, I would have no idea what “gyat” means, and would probably not know the lyrics to Paul Russell's infectious “Lil Boo Thang.”

Objectively, I know I am aging.

But because I am a boomer, I can't bring myself to say, “I am old.”

My father, who died three years ago at 91, was my model for what “old” looks like. He slowed down, but he never stopped, even when I wished he would. For example, by the time he turned 90, I thought he should relinquish the car keys. But he insisted that his macular degeneration was no impediment because driving was a matter of “muscle memory.”

In so many ways, though, he defied the idea that generations can be stereotyped simply by dint of a birth year.

He was technically a member of the silent generation (1928-1945), but he was a college professor, always interacting with younger people, super political and anything but quiet. An early adopter of all kinds of technology, my dad had the first Mac, the first iPod, even the first Walkman in our family. He used BitTorrent to download movies, and he talked about “seeders” and “feeders.” He was delighted when he received a letter from the FBI warning him to stop using the Pirate Bay to illegally download movies or face legal consequences. “Oh yeah, like they're really gonna put an old man like me away,” he scoffed.

And yet, as tech savvy as he could be, when he'd make a call on his iPhone, he would jab at the screen as if he were punching numbers into a push-button phone.

He and my mother produced four baby boomers, born between 1953 and 1960. And the four of us gave our parents six millennial grandchildren, born between 1981 and 2000.

Do we conform to stereotypes about our generations? I don't think so.

Our parents were working and/or distracted by the arrival of a more liberated, less strait-laced era than they'd come of age in. So my cohort of boomers essentially had free-range childhoods. When we were 11, my best friend and I secretly hitchhiked up PCH from Leo Carrillo State Park, where we were camping with her parents, to County Line Beach. By contrast, I rarely let my millennial daughter out of my sight until she was in high school. The thought of her climbing into a car with a stranger gives me a stomachache. (She assures me she never has.)

By **ROBIN ABCARIAN**
Los Angeles Times



Boomers have promoted a caricature of millennials as having a weak work ethic, being emotionally fragile and spending too much money on avocado toast when they should be saving for a down payment on a house. But those are risible generalizations. Millennials have boundaries. They can talk about their feelings. We boomer parents taught them those things. And when you take into account today's staggeringly high home prices, the shortage of affordable housing and the phenomenon of retiring boomers who don't see a benefit to downsizing, which would free up more housing stock for younger families, the avocado toast fallacy is revealed for what it is: generation trashing.

Millennials and their slightly older forebears in Generation X (1965-1980) can indeed come off as embittered at times—angry about what they perceive as the shortcomings, entitlement and youth obsession of their parents'—of my—generation.

“God forbid any generation younger than the boomers gets the spotlight once in a while,” wrote a user named ChemicalPrimary5775 on Reddit, my social media guilty pleasure. The comment was posted in a discussion group called “Boomers Being Fools,” which drips with generational antagonism.

“A lot of boomers are in a state of undiagnosed pre-dementia,” wrote WombatIsAngry, which actually made me LOL because yes, the oldest boomers are approaching 80, so that's probably an accurate observation.

“Other than those who served in Vietnam,” wrote diewolf2368, boomers “experienced very little adversity. In short, they were people of privilege from the start & at a certain point saw no reason to pretend they were anything else.”

And don't even get millennials started on tech-challenged boomer colleagues.

“Why are boomers so bad at using computers in the workplace, when they're the generation that invented office software and have had far longer to use it than the rest of us?” wrote another Redditor.

When the pandemic hit, some millennials took to calling COVID-19 the “Boomer Remover.” That, wrote a Financial Times columnist, “may reflect the general lack of empathy in society these days, but it may also mirror the free-floating political anger that the current generation has for their elders.”

Isn't the current generation always angry with their elders?

I mean, if you can't blame your parents' generation for the stuff that's wrong with your life, are you even alive?

EDITORIAL POLICY

electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

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Trump turns his trials into a soapbox.
Does he know he's channeling Hitler?

When Adolf Hitler was convicted of treason on April 1, 1924, for leading an armed insurrection against Germany's democratically elected government, he discovered something remarkable: Courtrooms can make excellent soapboxes for political grandstanding. In real time, 100 years later, we've been watching another political leader, former president and current Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, do the same. The echoes are uncanny and disturbing.

During his monthlong trial in March 1924, followed by his conviction, Hitler railed against Germany's democratic leaders and constitutionally anchored legal system. He chastened his judges. He threatened his prosecutors. He insisted that it was not he who had committed treason against the state but the Weimar Republic's political establishment who had betrayed the German people.

"You can declare us guilty a thousand times," Hitler defiantly told the judge after receiving his conviction and a five-year prison sentence, "but the ... eternal court of history will tear up the indictment and conviction with a smile and will acquit us." The trial and conviction proved to be a political boon for Hitler, catapulting him and the National Socialist German Workers Party from the fanatic fringe to the national stage. Hitler emerged as leader and spokesman for aggrieved, right-wing nationalists across the country.

In the decade that followed, Hitler was "dragged into courtrooms" (he told his followers at a rally) more times than he could remember. He invariably emerged politically stronger thanks to the toxic alchemy of his courtroom antics and constitutionally guaranteed freedoms of expression. When Hitler lost the 1932 presidential election by more than 6 million votes, he went to court to have the results annulled amid claims of voter fraud and irregularities by state officials. The presiding judge dismissed the case out of hand, observing that the 6-million-vote margin precluded any possibility that irregularities could have changed the outcome.

Not all judges were as rational. Hitler frequently encountered sympathetic judges, who, as had happened during the Beer Hall Putsch trial, permitted him to use his courtroom appearances to hold extended tirades, which were occasionally greeted by storms of applause. Hitler's private lawyer, Hans Frank, who was hanged in Nuremberg for his role in Nazi atrocities, once calculated that he represented his star client in more than 140 cases, mostly for defamation. Frank observed: "His opponents always ended up causing more harm to themselves, even though they thought they were damaging this ascending figure with their slander."

In one case, Hitler sued in court for slander against a claim that, as a young man, he had spit out a consecrated host during Holy Communion. He used the occasion to emphasize his strict Roman Catholic upbringing. The next election saw a

bump up in Catholics voting National Socialist.

Unquestionably, Hitler's most notable courtroom appearance, besides his 1924 treason trial, was in September 1930, when he appeared in court as a witness in the trial of fellow Nazis suspected of being complicit in an alleged plot to seize power in a military coup. Hitler used the occasion to underscore his Legaltätseid, or legality oath, to come to power by legal means. But Hitler did not deny or conceal his intent to destroy democracy, albeit through democratic means.

Hitler reminded the judge that Article 1 of the German Constitution stated that the government was ultimately an expression of the will of the people. "When we are finally in possession of the constitutionally guaranteed rights and powers, we will pour the state into the form that we think best," Hitler told the judge. It was an astonishingly brazen admission, but no less astonishing than the judge's response, "So, only by constitutional means?" Hitler's reply was crisp, "Jawohl." Within three years, Hitler had made good on his courtroom promise by becoming chancellor and disabling democratic structures and protections.

Trump currently faces four criminal indictments, including state election interference, retention of classified documents, hush money payments and an "extraordinary conspiracy" charge related to the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection. Trump has called it the greatest "witch hunt in history." With countless previous and current legal entanglements, he has probably been hauled into court more times than he can count.

Last week, when Trump appeared for a pretrial hearing in the hush money case, he railed against the judge, the judge's family and the courtroom staff in remarks the judge called "threatening" and "inflammatory," resulting in an expanded gag order. Trump has repeatedly attacked New York state prosecutor Letitia James, who had threatened to seize Trump's assets to pay for the nearly half-billion-dollar judgment in his civil fraud conviction, which can be done only after appeal now that the former president posted bond.

A Republican pollster, Frank Luntz, appearing to echo the ideas of Hitler's lawyer, cautioned against the consequences of prosecuting Trump. "If the New York attorney general starts to take his homes away, starts to seize his assets, it's all going to be on camera," Luntz told CNN. "You're going to create the greatest victimhood of 2024, and you're going to elect Donald Trump."

History does not repeat itself, as the saying goes, but historical events can rhyme. The alarm-clanging couplet of Hitler's and Trump's courtroom appearances, two demagogues—separated by a century—exploiting their constitutionally guaran-

By TIMOTHY W. RYBACK
Los Angeles Times

Timothy W. Ryback is the co-founder and director of the Institute for Historical Justice and Reconciliation in The Hague. His most recent book is "Takeover: Hitler's Final Rise to Power."



teed rights to free speech and due process in an effort to undermine democratic processes and structures, should serve as a sobering warning as we approach an election to determine who will be running the next government of the United States.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Public deserves
nothing but the truth

I am compelled to address the dissemination of inaccurate information related to an ongoing investigation in the CNMI Department of Corrections. The publication of false facts threatens the integrity of our community and misleads our citizens who deserve nothing but the truth.

I expect all media personnel to uphold the highest level of accuracy and responsibility in verifying information before publication. The trust of the public is at stake and it is imperative that we show restraint as reporters of the facts, ensuring that only verified and truthful details are shared with the community.

Transparency is non-negotiable in our communication with the people of the CNMI. I have always stood for openness and will continue to do so without compromise.

I call upon each of you to uphold the principles of ethical journalism and to work diligently in providing our community with the genuine and reliable information they deserve.

Anthony C. Torres
Corrections Commissioner

KILL
From page 6

creasing frequency and severity of wildfires and the fact that few scientists, if any, realized that barred owls were moving into this area until it was too late to do something less drastic to stop them.

Stuck between letting one species probably die off or killing hundreds of thousands of another species, Fish and Wildlife officials should give some other ideas a look. Instead of shooting birds dead, perhaps consider stopping them from reproducing. The agency says it looked at that and several other methods to control reproduction but they took too long to reduce barred owl populations or were too difficult and expensive to carry out.

It's illegal to hunt either of these birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act but the Fish and Wildlife Service can get a permit to allow the killing of animals in order to protect a species listed under the Endangered Species Act. The northern spotted owl is listed as threatened. The agency would also have to get permission from state authorities. And it's not that they haven't laid out a meticulous protocol for killing. Shooters must be trained and able to distinguish a barred owl from a spotted owl. Birds must be stationary on a perch and "present a full, frontal and unobstructed view" according to the proposal. Any bird wounded but not killed should be euthanized immediately.

The issue is whether they should be killed at all. The plan has never been to eradicate all barred owls—you really can't—but to lessen their numbers enough to give spotted owls some breathing room in the forest. But that could still mean a perpetual killing program as the spotted owl population stabilizes or goes down. (Currently it's decreasing as much as 9% a year in some areas, according to one study.)

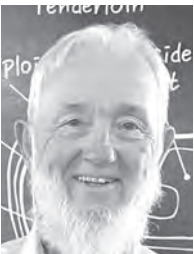
Maybe the government should consider what one biologist who has long studied spotted owls has suggested: Let nature take its course and leave it to the owls. That's ecological heresy to many conservationists whose philosophy is that you conserve threatened or endangered species when you have a way to do it. But it's worth taking another look at whether this is a case where conservation of one species warrants killing another.

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

Streaming conscious and unconscious

LITERARY NOOK
By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka "Pepé Batbon" Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.



"So many of us streaming along—all of humanity, really—moving in perfect sync, yet each lost in the room of a perfect dream." —excerpt from *The Parade* by Billy Collins, U.S. Poet Laureate 2001 to 2003.

IN A THREE-DIMENSIONAL DREAM

Imagine swift *river rapids
that always flow both ways
into an ocean of thought
dementia slowly dams them
dementia slowly damns them
the thoughts get caught
Imagine electricity in neural activity
connecting and enlightening ideas
swimming through them

fraught with neural onslaught
quickly sailing into a sea
of senescent synaptic tides
short term memory loss slows
despite the rapid neural flows
as senile dementia settles in.

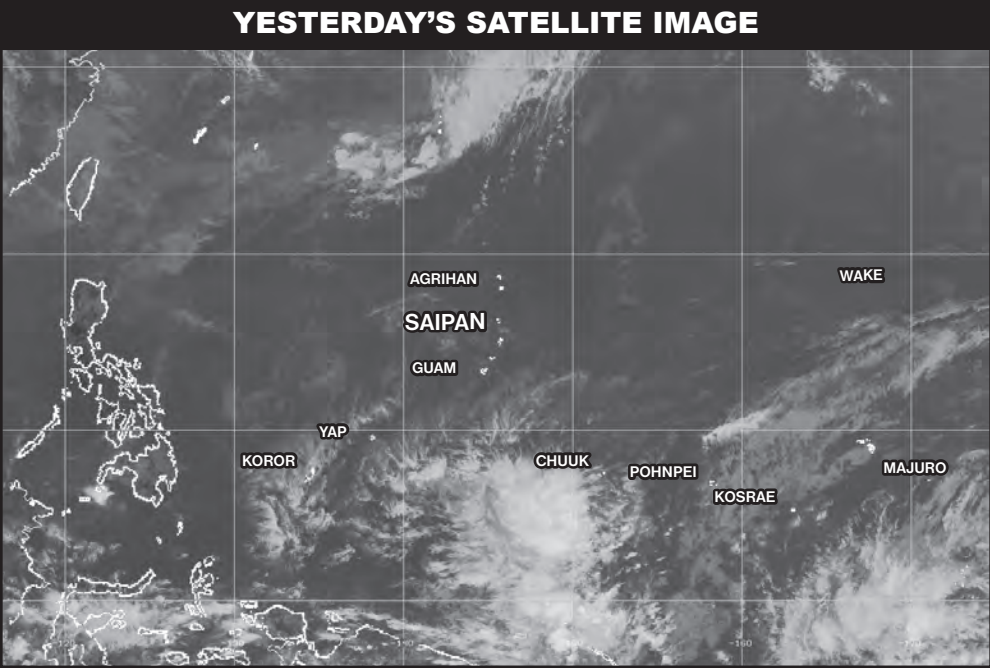
(*The river referred to here is the *corpus callosum*. It is often called, "the river that flows both ways." It is a mass of transverse fibers connecting our brain's cerebral hemispheres.)

IN MY LAST REMAINING YEARS

In my last remaining years
random thoughts come to mind
much more slowly shifting gears
days go by more bumps and grinds
how much longer knees worn and sore
liver and kidneys shot and bursting
arthritic fingers switch lights on a chore
for current medical thought I'm thirsting
forgetting this and then forgetting that
when will I begin to totally forget
sugars and sweets put on more fat
about your lies I no longer sweat
neural synapses on a sinking barge
as my *corpus callosum* loses its charge.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
85°	77°	85°	77°	86°	77°	86°	77°	86°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 8:18 AM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly cloudy skies and isolated showers in the Marianas. The clouds and showers are slightly increased near Tinian and Saipan as a portion of the trade-wind surge moves toward us. The wave models show combined seas of 5 to 7 feet, composed of an east-northeast trade-wind swell and a northeast swell from a winter storm that moved off Japan earlier.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy/Wind	88° / 79°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 78°	
Yap	Cloudy	90° / 79°	
Chuuk	Showers in the Vicinity	89° / 82°	
Pohnpei	Cloudy	86° / 80°	
Kosrae	Light Rain Shower	87° / 81°	
Majuro	Cloudy/Wind	86° / 82°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Monday	6:02 AM	6:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:46 AM	9:05 PM	-
Friday	8:37 AM	10:08 PM	-
Saturday	9:32 AM	11:09 PM	-
Sunday	10:29 AM	-	-
Monday	-	12:06 AM	11:26 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:10AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:10AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	68° / 57°	
Beijing	Light Rain Shower	62° / 44°	
Hong Kong	Fair	76° / 68°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 70°	
London	Partly Cloudy	75° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	66° / 51°	
Manila	Fair	95° / 81°	
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 52°	
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	76° / 71°	
New York	Clear	74° / 51°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	64° / 44°	
Paris	Clear	56° / 43°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	62° / 45°	
Rome	Sunny	72° / 46°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	69° / 43°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	58° / 49°	
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	69° / 49°	
Tokyo	Sunny	62° / 46°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	78° / 52°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:26 AM	Low Tide	0.90	
8:40 AM	High Tide	2.02	
3:50 PM	Low Tide	-0.27	
10:38 PM	High Tide	1.95	

UOG pollen study reveals food sources of Guam honeybees

A first of its kind study for Guam has revealed the food foraging habits of honeybees and found that Guam bees have a diverse diet of at least 139 plants, with the most common being *Leucaena leucocephala*, or what is known locally as *tangantangan*.

Honeybees play an important role in pollinating crops and 80% of all flowering plants. Plants require this pollination to produce food

and more plants, which then convert carbon dioxide into breathable oxygen, purify groundwater, and contribute to soil health. Few honeybee-related studies have been conducted in Guam or Micronesia, but with pollinator populations dropping alarmingly across North America, there is a need to study what contributes to their survival, including food sources and whether those sources are providing

them adequate nutrition.

The unpublished study was the thesis project of Master of Science in Biology candidate Jonae Sayama, who worked in coordination with her supervisor, UOG entomologist Dr. Ross Miller, and UOG environmental science alumnus Christopher Rosario, who now heads the Guam Beekeepers Association and works as Guam’s state entomologist at the Guam De-

partment of Agriculture.

Sayama sampled pollen grains from 10 randomly selected apiaries around the island over a year’s time starting in January 2022 and sent them to a lab for the plant sources to be identified.

The results showed 139 plant types, which Sayama said seems to be a good number of food sources compared to similar studies in other locations.

“Some studies have recorded 200 to 400 plant species foraged on,” she said. “I believe that 139 is a good number, considering we had many pollen grains that could not be identified to the species level due to an incomplete reference collection of plants in Guam.”

Tangantangan is the most abundant plant species identi-



UOG University of Guam biology graduate student Jonae Sayama takes pollen samples from a honeybee comb of a Guam apiary during her thesis research on pollen in 2022.

fied in the pollen, accounting for 14.1% of the samples. The next most abundant species were *Flagellaria indica*, or false rattan (4.2%), and *Casuarina equisetifolia*, or ironwood (2.7%). Among samples not identified to the species level, Fabaceae (flowering legume, pea, and bean plants) accounted for 50.6% of the remaining samples and Aracaceae (palm trees) for 4.2%.

Sayama, who is on track to graduate from UOG with her master’s in biology this

May, said her study provides essential information for beekeepers and the environmental community about the type and broad variety of floral foraging sources honeybees utilize. It can inform decisions that will help honeybee populations in Guam to thrive and continue to provide important services to the ecosystem and agriculture industry.

This study was supported by a Hatch grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. (PR)

Maj. Gen. Reginald Neal honored by Guam governor

HAGATNA, Guam—Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero awarded Maj. Gen. Reginald Neal, deputy commanding general U.S. Army Pacific, with the Ancient Order of the Chamorri—the highest civilian honor that can be bestowed on a non-native resident of Guam.

Serving over three years as the deputy commanding general for mobilization and reserve affairs, Neal advocated for the people of Guam by balancing a growing military presence with concerns from the community. He championed additional resources for the Guam National Guard, promoted expansion of veteran services in the Marianas and Palau, and came to Guam to assist with response and recovery two days after Typhoon Mawar’s landfall in 2023.

“I’ve been in the National Guard for almost 37 years, and I’ve been involved in multiple natural disasters. It’s one thing to mobilize in response to a disaster, but it’s quite another thing when everyone involved in the recovery are also victims of that disaster,” said Neal. “This is a true testament to the spirit of selfless service in the people of Guam and the Guam Guard and Reserve.”

During the award ceremony at the Governor’s Office, Brig. Gen. Mike Cruz, adjutant general of the Guam National Guard, noted that Neal’s frequent visits to Guam were unprecedented among military officials. Cruz expressed his appreciation that Neal didn’t just see Guam as a strategic location, but as home to American Citizens with a 4,000-year cultural legacy.

After visiting the various World War II massacre sites and liberation battlegrounds during his visits to Guam, Neal said he gained a deeper appreciation for what living on Guam means.

“At the very beginning of my assignment I quickly realized the strategic importance of Guam, but also gained an appreciation for the sacrifices that were made, and continue to be made, by its citizens for our country,” said Neal. “Over

that past three and a half years, I have gained much respect and admiration for the people of Guam and the rich culture of the CHamorro (sic) people, and the deep diversity of Guam and its mixture of indigenous CHamorros, Filipinos, Spanish and others from across Micronesia.”

After the ceremony, Neal shared his thoughts on receiving the prestigious award.

“It is not lost on me the rarity of being selected for

this very prestigious award. I was deeply emotional after receiving it, knowing that Gov. Leon Guerrero and Brig. Gen. Mike Cruz thought enough of my work. I will be an ambassador and advocate for Guam at every opportunity in the future, and I will always hold the people of Guam in the highest regard. I consider Guåhan my second home, and I look forward to returning,” said Neal. (PR)

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES • CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB24-BECQ/DEQ-42400080

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 7, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS ‘F’ VEHICLES FOR BECQ/DEQ, SAIPAN”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL & COASTAL QUALITY BY APRIL 26, 2024, TO MR. ELI CABRERA VIA EMAIL AT eli.cabrera@becq.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMHC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP24-CHCC/GSS-011

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 30TH, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING AND ON-SITE ASSESSMENT WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 3RD, 2024 AT 9:00AM AT THE CHC CONTINUING EDUCATION ROOM RIGHT BEFORE THE CAFETERIA.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

ITB24-CHCC/PHS-PRAMS-012

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

PREGNANCY RISK ASSESSMENT MONITORING SYSTEMS (PRAMS)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 13, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

“LEASE OF VEHICLE”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

Tels: (670) 234-9447 / 234-6866

Fax: (670) 234-9021

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

RE-OPENING OF THE HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE FUND (HAF) PROGRAM

April 4, 2024

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is re-announcing the availability of the Homeowner Assistance Fund Program that was made possible through the US Department of the Treasury. In FY 2022, The CNMI was allocated a total amount of **\$4,158,268** in HAF funds, of which approximately 15% or \$623,740 will be used for administrative expenses and approximately 85% or \$3,534,528, will be used for the following types of assistance for **CNMI homeowners**:

- Mortgage delinquency assistance- *an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to \$25,400.00 to be used for homeowner's primary residence*
- Mortgage payment assistance- *an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to \$20,400.00 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence*
- Past due and/or annual home-related insurance premiums- *an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to \$1,716.00 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence*
- Utilities and Broadband Assistance:
 - Utilities:** Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$6,000.00 through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence **(to address delinquencies in utility payments inclusive of trash collection services)**. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$1,500.00 or \$500.00 per month **with future payment assistance** (not to exceed a period of 90 days or 3 months) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence.
 - Broadband:** Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$600.00 through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence **(to address delinquency in broadband or home internet service payments)**. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$150.00 or \$50.00 per month **with future payment assistance** (not to exceed a period of 90 days or 3 months) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence

Eligibility Criteria
Eligible Homeowners:

- Must show proof of homeownership
- Must be a resident of the CNMI and the assisted home must be the primary residence.
- Must meet the income limit: less than or equal to 150% area median income or less than the median income of the United States, whichever is greater (See income limits below)
- Must show proof of experiencing COVID-related financial hardship after January 21, 2020, including a hardship that begun before January 21, 2020 but continued after that date
- Mortgage Delinquency Assistance: Must show proof of mortgage delinquency (must be at least one month delinquent)
- Insurance Arrears Assistance: Must show proof of insurance arrears (must be at least one month in arrears)
- Homeowner is at least one installment payment in arrears on one or more of the following: utilities, such as electric, gas, home energy, and water OR internet service, including broadband internet access service
- Statement of current inability to resume mortgage payments due to unemployment, underemployment or other continuing hardship
- Statement of current ability to resume any required regular payments after account is reinstated (OR) Ability to resume any required regular payments

Income Limits

FY 2023 HAF Income Limits Summary for Northern Mariana Island								
	1-Person	2-Person	3-Person	4-Person	5-Person	6-Person	7-Person	8-Person
Greater of 100% AMI or 100% U.S Median Income	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200
Greater of 150% AMI or 100% of U.S Median Income	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$97,650

The pre-application for the HAF Program will be available, starting **Thursday, April 4, 2024**, at the NMHC Main Office and Planning/HAF Office in Garapan, Saipan and the Tinian and Rota Field Offices. The pre-application will also be available online on NMHC's website, www.nmhc.gov.net (Public Notice/Announcements->Homeowner Assistance Fund Plan). Those who are interested in reviewing the HAF Plan and details of the program's terms can also visit the NMHC website. The application process will be ongoing until a notice is issued by NMHC and will be on a **first come, first serve basis**. Applications will only be accepted at the NMHC main and field offices. Should you have any questions, please contact any of the HAF admin specialists at (670) 233-0073/4/5/7.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

“NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency”

Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670)433-9213
Fax: (670)433-3690

CDBG-DR Office
Tel: (670)233-9447/9448/9449

Rota Field Office
Tel: (670)532-9410
Fax: (670)532-9441

Business

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR

Plumeria Steakhouse unveils \$14.95 fusion buffet

Plumeria Steakhouse is offering the best of both worlds—or in this case of all worlds—with the launch of its fusion \$14.95 lunch buffet last March.

Owner Steve Jang said diners can enjoy Old World cuisine like lasagna, New World dishes like fried chicken, and Asian staples like adobo and sweet & sour pork any day at the Garapan upscale restaurant's eat-all-you-can spread.

"The food that we offer them are fusion food like local, Korean, Filipino, and continental.

We have chicken adobo in Korean style, spicy squid with a Korean twist, and pork cutlet and chicken sisig with a little bit of Chamorro touch. We also serve eggplant lasagna with coconut sauce, American style [dishes] with a taste of Japanese, and other entrees that are mixture of different styles of food," he said.

The longtime local businessman said their lunch buffet's menu changes everyday and since it's April and mahi season, don't be surprised to see



MARK RABAGO

Plumeria Steakhouse unveiled its \$14.95 fusion lunch buffet last March to cater to Saipan's always on-the-go office workers.



MARK RABAGO

Plumeria Steakhouse is located along Beach Road, where the 1959 Bonanza Airplane is located.

mahi sinigang, mahi teppanyaki, and other mahi specialties in their buffet spread.

"The mahi comes fresh from local fishermen who bring their catch to me. It's a

win-win situation for the local fishermen and small businesses like us."

Aside from the catch-of-day like mahi, Jang said eat-all-you-can diners can also be as-

sured that the produce they use are also fresh and bought from hardworking farmers on island.

"We use only fresh ingredients and make our dishes from scratch," he said.

As well as delivering an eclectic taste pallet for diners, Jang said he also introduced the daily fusion lunch buffet to give office workers a chance to enjoy a sumptuous meal.

"We launched 15 days ago a fusion lunch buffet so people can just come and just eat and go within that short period of time. People don't want to wait 15 to 20 minutes for their orders to come out. Lunch hours are usually 11:30am-12:30pm or 12-1pm. I want to accommodate that type of customer to come in and eat and then go," he said.

And so far, so good as since offering the fusion lunch buffet, Plumeria Steakhouse has enjoyed a steady stream of customers.

"I'm just very happy to offer this simple fusion menu. Our customers have 100% liked the food and I get a lot of good comments."

It's been doing so good that Jang is already planning to unveil a Sunday special buffet in the coming weeks.

Plumeria Steakhouse's fusion lunch buffet is available from 11am to 2pm, Monday-Friday. Aside from the eat-all-you-can treat, early-risers can also take advantage of their \$6.95 breakfast available from 7am to 10:30am everyday with last order at 10:30am. Plumeria Steakhouse is also open for special events like birthdays, graduations, christenings, etc.

Plumeria Steakhouse is located along Beach Road, where the 1959 Bonanza Airplane is located. Look for the one with the airplane landmark in Garapan. For more information or for reservations, call (670) 233-5454 or check out Plumeria Steakhouse on Facebook.

Turkey and Israel announce trade barriers on each other

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Turkey and Israel announced trade barriers on each other Tuesday as relations deteriorated further amid the war in Gaza.

Turkey, a staunch critic of Israel's military actions in the territory, announced that it was restricting exports of 54 types of products to Israel with immediate effect. They include aluminum, steel, construction products, jet fuel and chemical fertilizers. In response, Israel said it was preparing a ban on products from Turkey.

The announcements came a day after Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said Israel had barred Turkish military cargo planes from joining an operation to airdrop humanitarian aid to Gaza and vowed to respond with a series of measures against Israel until it declares a cease-fire and allows aid to flow in without interruptions.

"There is no excuse for Israel to block our attempt to deliver aid by air to starving

people of Gaza," Fidan said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government, which suffered major setbacks in local elections last month, is faced with intense pressure at home to halt trade with Israel. Critics accuse the government of engaging in double standards by leveling strong accusations against Israel while continuing lucrative commercial relations.

Erdogan, whose ruling party has roots in Turkey's Islamic movement, has been an outspoken critic of Israel's treatment of the Palestinians since taking office in 2003.

The Turkish leader stepped up his criticism of Israel following its military offensive in Gaza, describing Israel's actions as war crimes verging on "genocide" and asserting that the Hamas militant group, considered a terrorist organization by Israel, the United States and European Union, is fighting for the liberation of its lands and people.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US Postal Service seeking to hike cost of first-class stamp to 73 cents

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. Postal Service signaled plans Tuesday for a rate increase that includes hiking the cost of a first-class stamp from 68 cents to 73 cents, part of an overall 7.8% increase to take effect this summer. The request was made to the Postal Regulatory Commission, which must approve the proposed increase that the Postal Service contends is necessary to achieve financial stability. If approved, the 5-cent increase for a "forever" stamp and similar increases for postcards, metered letters and international mail would take effect July 14. U.S. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy previously

warned postal customers to get used to "uncomfortable" rate hikes as the Postal Service seeks to become self-sufficient. He said price increases were overdue after "at least 10 years of a defective pricing model." In its filing, the Postal Service said it's also seeking price adjustments on special services such as money order fees and certified mail. But there will be no price increase for post office box rentals, and postal insurance will be reduced by 10% when items are mailed, the postal service said.

Third channel to open at Baltimore port as recovery from bridge collapse continues

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP)—A third channel will open this month at Baltimore's port

after the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse two weeks ago, and Maryland's congressional delegation will sponsor legislation seeking federal aid to pay 100% of the cost of a new bridge, Sen. Ben Cardin said Tuesday. Cardin gave the update after meeting with the state congressional delegation and Maryland Gov. Wes Moore on Capitol Hill in Washington. "We now have two alternative channels that are open. We have a third channel that'll be open this month that will deal with the majority of traffic into the port of Baltimore. And by the end of May we hope to have the entire channel reopened," Cardin said. The bridge collapsed March 26 after being struck by the cargo ship Dali, which lost power shortly after

setting sail, and the wreck has blocked the port's main shipping channel. Cardin also said he will lead an effort to introduce legislation clarifying that federal funds will be used to pay the full cost of replacing the bridge. He noted that the federal government covered 100% of rebuilding the Interstate 35W bridge in Minnesota after it collapsed into the Mississippi River in 2007. "The legislation that we're going to be offering will be to do what has done in previous disasters to make it clear that it's 100% federal cost in regards to the monies that have already been allocated," Cardin. The Democrat added that he has been encouraged by conversations he's had with Republicans: "They have been very open to this legislation."

Life & Style

The Jon Snow sequel to 'Game of Thrones' isn't happening, Kit Harington says

NEW YORK (AP)—Winter, apparently, is not coming back. Kit Harington has shut down talk of a Jon Snow sequel to HBO's massive hit "Game of Thrones."

"There are no plans for it at the moment. It's off the

table for the foreseeable," Harington told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday, while promoting his new crime drama film "Blood for Dust."

"Game of Thrones" ended in 2019 after eight seasons, but the prospect of spinoffs were bandied about. Fans had to wait three years for the only one that's aired thus far, the HBO prequel "House of the Dragon," set two centuries before "Game of Thrones."

A sequel centered around the popular Snow, who started "Game of Thrones" as an outcast and brother of the Night's Watch and fought his way to more power in Westeros and the truth of his ancestry, had reportedly been in development for a few years.

Rare copy of comic featuring Superman's first appearance sells for \$6M at auction

NEW YORK (AP)—A 1938 copy of the comic that first "introduced Superman to the world" has sold for a record-setting \$6 million, the auctioneer that handled the purchase said last week.

According to Heritage Auctions, the rare copy of Action Comics No. 1 was sold to an anonymous buyer on Thursday. The \$6 million price tag makes the book the most expensive comic to ever sell at auction, the auction house added.


Heritage Auctions hails Action Comics No. 1 as "the most important comic ever published"—noting that the

Superman who first appeared in the 1938 spring issue "remains remarkably like" the version still seen in comic strips and on the big screen today. In addition to the Man of Steel's first appearance, the book also introduced central love interest Lois Lane.

A report from comic book grading service Certified Guaranty Company, cited by Heritage Auctions, estimates that there are only 100 surviving copies of Action Comics No. 1 today—out of 200,000 that were printed by National Allied Publications, the predecessor to DC Comics.

The copy sold last week, which comes from the Kansas City Pedigree, has a "Very Fine+" CGC rating of 8.5—with only two other unrestored issues of grading higher, Heritage Auctions noted.

Although not as high as \$6 million, other rare copies of Action Comics No. 1 have also gone for millions at auction in recent years, including a 6.0-rated issue that sold for \$3.56 million through Comic-Connect last year.



This photo provided by Heritage Auctions shows a copy of Action Comics No. 1, the comic book that introduced Superman to the world in 1938, which sold for \$6 million on Thursday, April 4, 2024.



Kit Harington poses for photographers upon arrival at the Olivier Awards in London, Sunday, April 10, 2022.

George Lucas to receive honorary Palme d'Or at Cannes Film Festival

George Lucas will receive an honorary Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival next month, festival organizers announced Tuesday.

Lucas will be honored at the closing ceremony to the 77th French film festival on May 25. He joins a short list of those to receive honorary Palmes. Last year, Harrison Ford, a regular leading man for Lucas in "Star Wars" and "Indiana Jones," was awarded one. Other recent recipients include Michael Douglas, Tom Cruise, Forest Whitaker and Jodie Foster.

"The Festival de Cannes has always held a special place in my heart," Lucas said in a statement. "I was surprised and elated when my first film, 'THX-1138,' was selected to be shown in a new program for first time directors called the Directors' Fortnight. Since then, I have returned to the festival on many occasions in a variety of capacities as a writer, director and producer. I am truly honored by this special recognition which means a great deal to me."

The Cannes Film Festival runs May 14-25. The closing ceremony, during which the festival's top prize, the Palme d'Or, will be awarded to one of the films in competition, will be broadcast in France on France Télévisions and streamed on Brut. (AP)

Beyoncé becomes first Black woman to hit No. 1 on Billboard country albums chart

NEW YORK (AP)—Beyoncé has made history once again. Her latest album, the epic "Act II: Cowboy Carter," hit No. 1 on the Billboard country albums chart, making her the first Black woman to top the chart since its 1964 inception.

The album also topped the all-genres Billboard 200, marking her eighth No. 1 album. According to Luminate, the industry data and analytics company, "Cowboy Carter" totaled 407,000 equivalent album units, a combination of pure album sales and on-demand streams, earned in the

U.S. in its first week.

As a Black woman reclaiming country music, Beyoncé stands in opposition to stereotypical associations of the genre with whiteness. Conversation surrounding Beyoncé's country music explorations began when she arrived at the 2024 Grammy Awards in full cowboy regalia—making a statement without saying a word. Then, during the Super Bowl, she dropped two hybrid country songs: "Texas Hold 'Em" and "16 Carriages," eventually leading to the release of "Cowboy Carter."



Beyonce walks onstage to accept the Innovator Award during the iHeartRadio Music Awards, Monday, April 1, 2024, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

Spouse endures second loss after wife's passing

DEAR ABBY: I am trying to come to terms with the passing of my wife, "Charlotte," a month ago. Many old friends and family have been supportive. What hurts, in addition to my grief, is the silence from a particular couple.

For years, we were very close with this family when we both had young boys growing up. We celebrated all the joys and life-changing events together, including going out to dinner every Friday and vacationing together. Once our boys were on their own, we gradually saw less and less of the couple, but still kept in touch occasionally.

When Charlotte passed, they were two of the first people I notified. They were out of town at the time, so I postponed her memorial a day so they could attend. I felt they were so important to us that they should be there.

I have not heard one word from this couple! They live a mile away, and I haven't received a dinner invitation or even a phone call. I'm shocked by their lack of caring, knowing I am home alone and devastated over Charlotte's passing. A simple phone call to ask how I'm doing would be helpful. What do you think about this?

ABANDONED IN NEW YORK

DEAR ABANDONED: I am sorry for the loss of your wife. Because it is so recent, your pain must be overwhelming. Regarding this couple, I suspect that once your sons

were grown, their friendship with you was already on the wane.

While it would have been compassionate for them to have stepped up when they received the news of your wife's passing, they (as many other people) may not have known what to say or do, so they did nothing.

If you wish to talk with them, by all means, call them. But when you do, do not expect them to offer more than cursory condolences. Concentrate instead on the friends who have shown they ARE willing to be there for you.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I met a man online and have been dating him off and on for the past four years. His parents have been living with him since the pandemic, and I have yet to be invited to his home or to meet them. He is from Bolivia and says his parents want him to marry a Catholic Bolivian girl — and someone without children. I am divorced, American and the mother of two.

He tells me he's afraid that if I meet them, our relationship will be over. He keeps saying they are moving back to Bolivia, but they are still here. I also have never met his friends. He says he never does anything with his friends, between his parents living with him and studying for his architectural exams. After all these years, I have yet to meet one of his friends. What should I do?

OFF THE RADAR IN WISCONSIN

DEAR OFF THE RADAR: Recognize that this man may not have been entirely truthful with you about his circumstances. Bluntly put, he may be married, or he may not be who he has represented himself to be in other aspects of his life. Because your relationship hasn't progressed after four years of dating (off and on), what you should do is **MOVE ON**.

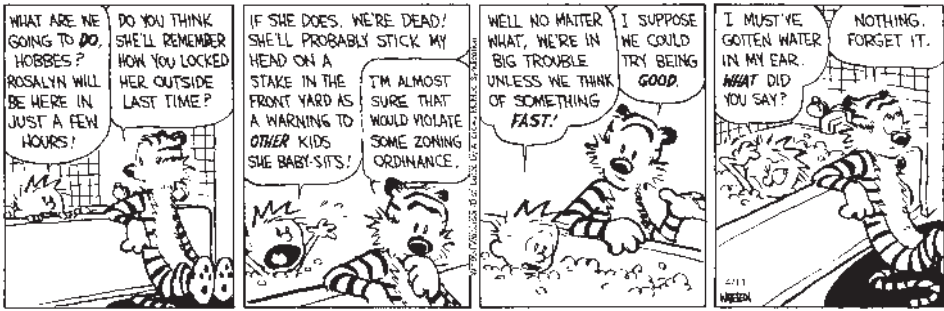
■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



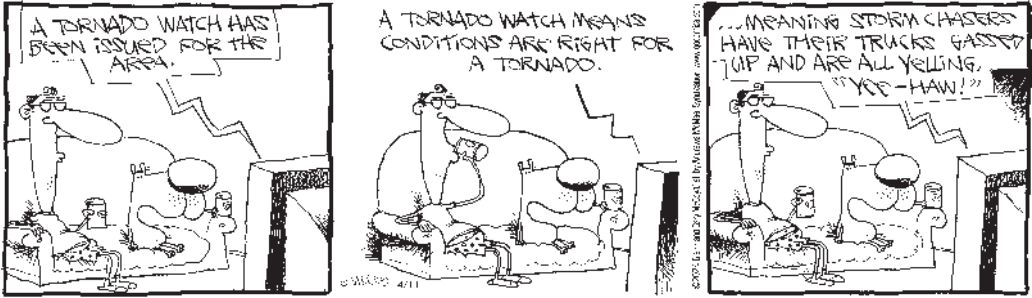
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 High-five sound
5 Thy
9 Cotillion attendee
12 Poet Sandburg
13 —
14 NFL's Manning
15 Canine guard
17 Diarist Anaïs
18 Dissertation
19 Relaxed
21 Rainey or Barker
22 Goody treat
24 Valley in California
27 Scoot
28 Roundish do
31 Rage
32 More-over
33 Tic-tac-toe win
34 Some lighters
36 "King Kong" studio
37 Pre-weekend cry

DOWN

2 Nullify
24 Pen tip
25 MSNBC's Melber
26 Nutty holiday treat
27 Scarce
29 King, in Cannes
30 Gut-punch reaction
35 Comic Caesar
37 Merchant
39 Theater boxes
40 Gents
41 Sitarist's music
42 Plow pullers
43 Ship's frame
44 Bangkok cuisine
45 MD's workplace
46 USMC ranks
49 Arctic explorer John The Magic, on score-boards

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-11

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Milly Alcock, 24; Joss Stone, 37; Teo Yoo, 43; Jennifer Esposito, 51.

Happy Birthday: Spice things up. Make grand gestures that impact you and those close to you. Open the door that leads to possibilities and positive change. Put your energy into making your dreams a reality. Be the one to negotiate and navigate your way to victory. You have plenty to gain if you are willing to take the time, do your due diligence and seize the moment when opportunity strikes. Your numbers are 5, 13, 24, 27, 33, 39, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep your records and documents in order. Don't expect things to run smoothly, and be ready to counter any negativity that comes your way. Use intelligence and practicality to ward off being compromised by someone trying to blame you. Protect your interests. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put your money, personal papers and possessions in a safe place. Be a good listener and a helpful associate, but don't take the blame for someone else's shortcomings. Focus on what you can learn and accomplish without putting your reputation or position in jeopardy. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take a long, hard look at the past, present and future. Gauge relationships strategically. Refuse to let emotions taint your perspective. Look at the fine print to verify plans, promises and the accuracy of information necessary for your success. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Seeing is believing. Show what you have to offer, and you'll receive interest and suggestions to help you achieve your goal. Let your imagination

guide you, and you'll figure out how to fine-tune your plan. A partnership and profits are within reach. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Work the room. Make connections, but don't offer pretenses. Stick to the truth, and you'll avoid wasting time on damage control. Listen to others more and give compliments, and you'll build trust and friendship that will encourage you to receive the help or guidance you require to excel. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Be open to suggestions, but verify information before incorporating it into your plans. An opportunity to learn something new or to make connections through travel or networking will pay off. Search for unique ways to use your skills, and a positive transformation will unfold. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't count on anyone or anything. Make your way forward using experience and skills. Lean toward simple choices that enhance what you are trying to do and keep you within budget. A financial adjustment at home will ease stress and give you greater flexibility. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Follow through with your plans, regardless of what others do or say. Avoid joint ventures or giving up your goals for someone else's dream. Pay attention to what's happening around you, learn from your mistakes and focus on what's possible. Change begins with you. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Listen, dissect what you hear and walk away from situations that are dubious or contradictory to what you are trying to achieve. A practical approach will guard against financial loss and help you maintain your reputation and position. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take time to rearrange your space to ensure maximum efficiency. Be creative, but not extravagant. Make every move count. Set an example for others. Offer support, encouragement and a smile. Do your part to make the world a better place. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep your eye on subscriptions, updates and institutional dealings that require attention. Don't leave someone else in charge when money or your reputation is at stake. Talk to experts that will point you in the right direction. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Contracts, financial ventures and how you earn and use your money will lead to a stable future. Your insight and willingness to handle matters yourself will prove valuable. An opportunity to invest more time in yourself will pay off. ★★★★★

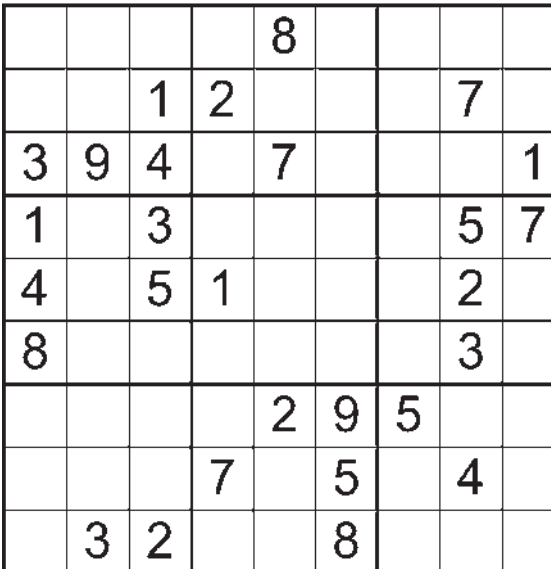
Birthday Baby: You are ambitious, resourceful and powerful. You are curious and enthusiastic.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

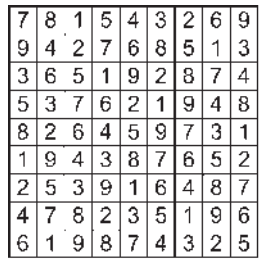
SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★★

4/11

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TIME TO DO THE LAUNDRY

Solution: 7 letters

C E R O L O C T E K S A B T E
L L I F C L O T H E S L I N E
S T O D A O L S T A I N I E T
K N E T S S D A W W H H R G A
N E L W H P C R R A C P E R R
I G I A S I I I N A A S N E A
R S P T L N N D M O E W E T P
H F O E G K W G S O L E T E E
S P D R L A N C I R B A F D S
S L W E S I S B S C T O R N
H L B H H D L O Y E E S Y O
O O I S I O R A C A D R N E T
R R A G U T K L I K R A O R T
T W N S H J E A N S S D R H O
S L E W O T E S O L C G I K C

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Basket, Bleach, Blouse, Board, Chores, Closet, Clothesline, Clothing, Cold, Color, Cotton, Cycle, Dark, Delicates, Detergent, Dryer, Fabric, Fill, Gentle, Handwash, Iron, Jeans, Light, Load, Pile, Robe, Separate, Shirt, Shorts, Shrinks, Soak, Soap, Socks, Softener, Sort, Spin, Spots, Stain, Sweater, Swish, Towel, Washing Machine, Water, Whites, Wring, Wrinkle
Yesterday's Answer: Broker
The NEW Treasury 58 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Mavericks beat Hornets as Luka Doncic scores 39 in triple-double



CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Luka Doncic had 39 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists, and the Dallas Mavericks continued their surge heading into the postseason, beating the Charlotte Hornets 130-104 on Tuesday night for their 15th win in 17 games.

The NBA's leading scorer had 21 points and made five 3-pointers in the first quarter as the Mavericks bolted to a 36-14-point lead. Doncic finished 8 of 17 from beyond the arc in his 21st triple-double of the season. He also set a Mavericks franchise record for points in a season with 2,341, surpassing Mark Aguirre's 2,330 in 1983-84.

Daniel Gafford scored 26 points and Kyrie Irving added 18 points, nine assists and eight rebounds for the Mavericks (49-30), who are fifth in the Western Conference.

Miles Bridges scored 22 points and Brandon Miller 21 for the Hornets, who wrapped up a franchise-long eight-game homestand with a 2-6 record.

76ERS 120, PISTONS 102

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Joel Embiid had 37 points and 11 rebounds and Philadelphia extended their winning streak to six games with a win over Detroit.

Buddy Hield scored 18 and Kelly Oubre Jr. added 17 as the 76ers (45-35) continued their push to avoid the Play-In Tournament and stayed in contention for the sixth spot in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

Embiid added eight assists and played 36 minutes—his most in the four game since his return from a meniscus injury suffered on Jan. 30.

Jaden Ivey scored 25 points and Evan Fournier added 21 for the Pistons, who fell to 13-66 and inched closer to clinching the worst record in the NBA this season.

PACERS 140, RAPTORS 123

TORONTO (AP)—Tyrese Haliburton scored 30 points, Pascal Siakam added 16 points in 26 minutes in his second game back in Toronto and Indiana pulled away early in the second half and beat Toronto.

Obi Toppin scored 23 points and T.J. McConnell added 17 as the Pacers won their third straight to remain in sixth place in the Eastern Conference standings.

The Pacers are a game ahead of the Philadelphia 76ers in the race to avoid a spot in the Play-In Tournament. Both teams have two games remaining.

Siakam suited up for his 39th game with the Pacers after playing the first 39 games of the season with Toronto. He was trad-



Charlotte Hornets forward Miles Bridges (0) guards Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic (77) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, April 9, 2024, in Charlotte, N.C.

ed to Indiana on Jan. 18. Indiana has gone 22-17 with Siakam, who also had nine rebounds and three assists.

HEAT 117, HAWKS 111, 2OT

ATLANTA (AP)—Tyler Herro scored four of his 33 points in the second overtime and Miami outlasted Atlanta.

Jimmy Butler had 25 points and nine assists and Nikola Jovic added 23 points and eight rebounds as the Heat won for the fifth time in seven games.

With the win, Miami remained a half-game behind the Philadelphia 76ers, in eighth place in the Eastern Conference standings.

Dejounte Murray had 29 points, 13 rebounds and 13 assists in 49 minutes for the Hawks. De'Andre Hunter finished with 23 points and 10 rebounds.

The Hawks are in 10th place in the conference, a game behind the Chicago Bulls.

BUCKS 104, CELTICS 91

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo left late in the third quarter with a calf injury, but Milwaukee hung on to beat Boston in a game that featured an NBA record-low total of two free-throw attempts.

Milwaukee snapped a four-game skid as Patrick Beverley had 20 points and 10 rebounds after the Bucks shook up their lineup by having the veteran guard start ahead of Malik Beasley, who came off the bench for the first time all season.

Antetokounmpo was heading up the court late in the third quarter after a Celtics basket when he grabbed his left calf and took a seat. The two-time MVP was helped off the floor, and cameras showed him heading to the locker room under his own power.

KNICKS 128, BULLS 117

CHICAGO (AP)—Jalen

Brunson scored 45 in his second straight 40-point game, and New York beat Chicago.

Brunson delivered his 10th 40-point game this season after scoring 43 in a win at Milwaukee on Sunday. He nailed seven 3-pointers, helping New York win its second in a row after losing four of five.

OG Anunoby scored 24. Donte DiVincenzo hit a heave from midcourt to end the first half and finished with 21 points.

Josh Hart scored 17 and grabbed 13 rebounds, and the Knicks also got some payback for a loss at Chicago on Friday. The two teams close out the regular season in New York on Sunday.

ROCKETS 118, MAGIC 106

HOUSTON (AP)—Fred VanVleet scored a season-high 37 points and Houston snapped a five-game skid with a victory over Orlando.

The Magic fell into a tie for fourth place with Cleveland in the Eastern Conference. They came into the night with a chance to clinch the Southeast Division title with a win and a loss by the Miami Heat, but they couldn't get it done against Houston and the Heat beat the Hawks 117-111 in double overtime.

A basket by Markelle Fultz got the Magic within eight with about four minutes to go but VanVleet made a jump shot followed by a three-point play to make it 114-101 about a minute later to secure the victory.

Paolo Banchero and Jalen Suggs scored 21 points apiece for the Magic and Fultz added 18.

VanVleet made six 3-pointers and had eight rebounds and six assists. Jabari Smith Jr. added 23 points and Dillon Brooks had 15 as the Rockets played their last home game of the season.

SPURS 102, GRIZZLIES 87

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—

Victor Wembanyama had 18 points, seven blocks, seven rebounds and six assists, Julian Champagne added 17 points, and San Antonio rode a third-quarter burst to a victory over Memphis.

Sandro Mamukelashvili added a career-best 16 rebounds along with 11 points as the Spurs snapped a 13-game losing streak to the Grizzlies. San Antonio had not beaten Memphis since Dec. 23, 2020. Blake Wesley scored 13 points.

Jordan Goodwin had a career-best 19 rebounds while scoring 10 points for the Grizzlies. Brandon Clarke, Scotty Pippen Jr. and Trey Jemison each had 14 points for Memphis.

The Spurs led 49-48 at half-time, then blew the game open in the third quarter. San Antonio began the period with a 25-9 run and led 77-61 heading into the fourth.

TIMBERWOLVES 130, WIZARDS 121

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Anthony Edwards scored a career-high 51 points and Minnesota overcame an early 21-point deficit with a dominant second half to beat Washington.

Edwards had 30 points in the second half. Nickeil Alexander-Walker finished with 23 points and Rudy Gobert had 19 points and 16 rebounds for the Wolves, who have won four of five and eight of 10.

Minnesota has clinched a top-three seed in the Western Conference and has a showdown at Denver on Wednesday with a potential No. 1 seed at stake. The Timberwolves and Nuggets were tied atop the West entering Tuesday, one game ahead of Oklahoma City. The Thunder beat Sacramento Tuesday night to keep pace.

THUNDER 112, KINGS 105

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 40 points in his return from injury, and Oklahoma City

rallied from a 20-point deficit to defeat Sacramento as the Kings' Domantas Sabonis had his double-double streak halted at 61 games.

Gilgeous-Alexander had missed six of the team's previous seven games with a bruised right thigh, and the team went 2-4 without him. He gave Oklahoma City a much-needed boost against the Kings, scoring the team's final six points to seal an important win. The Thunder entered the contest a game behind the Minnesota Timberwolves for the best record in the Western Conference with four games remaining.

D'Aaron Fox scored 33 points and Keon Ellis scored a career-high 26 points for the Kings. Sabonis had eight points and 13 rebounds. The game was important to the Kings, too. They entered the night eighth in the Western Conference standings with a shot at avoiding the Play-In Tournament.

NUGGETS 111, JAZZ 95

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Jamal Murray scored 28 points, Nikola Jokic tallied 28 points and 13 rebounds, and Denver Nuggets pushed past short-handed Utah.

Murray missed seven games with a knee injury but is working his way back into game shape the last two contests. After being restricted to 21 minutes against Atlanta on Saturday, Murray went 11-for-20 in 27 minutes against the Jazz.

Murray dunked a career-high five times in the first half and had four steals. In the fourth quarter, he hit three straight 3s to push a close game to 104-90 with 4:10 to play.

Talen Horton-Tucker scored 24 points for Utah. Omer Yurtseven posted a season-high 20 points and Luka Samanic had a season-best 15 points for the Jazz, who have lost 13 straight.

WARRIORS 134, LAKERS 120

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Klay Thompson scored 27 points, Stephen Curry had 23 and Golden State capitalized on Anthony Davis' injury absence for a victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night.

Andrew Wiggins had 17 points for the 10th-place Warriors, who hit 26 of their 41 3-point attempts—including an astonishing 16 of 23 from Curry, Thompson and Draymond Green, who went 5 for 5 in the first half by himself.

Golden State's 26 3s were the most allowed in a game by the Lakers.

The Warriors (44-35) have won eight of nine down the stretch to move within a half-game of ninth-place Los Angeles (45-35). Golden State also won the head-to-head tiebreaker between the rivals, putting homecourt advantage for a potential 9-10 play-in game next week in the Warriors' hands over their final three regular-season games.

CLIPPERS 105, SUNS 92

PHOENIX (AP)—Russell Westbrook had 16 points, 15 rebounds and 15 assists for his first triple-double of the season and 199th of his career, and the Los Angeles Clippers built a 31-point lead in the first quarter before holding on late for a victory over Phoenix.

It was an embarrassing early showing for the Suns, who are fighting to stay out of the Western Conference play-in tournament. They eventually rallied to cut the margin to 91-84 with 6:45 left on Bradley Beal's free throw, but couldn't get closer.

The Clippers have won four straight and seven of eight. They host the Suns on Wednesday in the second game of the home-and-home series.

Paul George led Los Angeles with 23 points while Ivica Zubac added 17 points and 13 rebounds. All five starters scored in double figures.

PELICANS 110, TRAIL BLAZERS 100

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Trey Murphy III had 31 points and eight rebounds, and New Orleans beat Portland.

C.J. McCollum added 29 points and made five 3-pointers against his former team, and Zion Williamson had 22 points and seven rebounds for the Pelicans.

Deandre Ayton led the Trail Blazers (21-58) with 30 points on 15-of-22 shooting and 13 rebounds. Scoot Henderson had 19 points and a career-high 15 assists. Kris Murray added 14 points for Portland.

New Orleans moved into sixth in the Western Conference, out of the play-in, with the win and Phoenix's loss to the Clippers.

Tigers score 4 runs in 9th inning to comeback and beat Pirates



PITTSBURGH
(AP)—

Gio Urshela, Kerry Carpenter and Jake Rogers delivered RBI singles in the ninth inning as the Detroit Tigers rallied past the Pittsburgh Pirates 5-3 on Tuesday.

Detroit won for just the second time in six games by getting to Pirates closer David Bednar (1-1), who blew his third save opportunity in four tries.

Pittsburgh led 3-1 heading to the ninth before the Tigers broke loose against Bednar, a two-time All-Star.

Bednar walked Greene leading off the inning, then hit Spencer Torkelson. Urshela singled and both runners scored when Michael A. Taylor's wayward throw from center to third base skipped into the netting near the Pittsburgh dugout. Carpenter and Rogers followed with run-scoring singles to give Detroit a split of the short two-game interleague set.

Urshela and Matt Vierling had two hits apiece for Detroit. Shelby Miller (3-0) pitched a scoreless eighth, and Jason Foley worked the ninth for his third save.

Edward Olivares homered twice for the Pirates. Ke'Bryan Hayes had two hits and drove in a run for Pittsburgh.

ORIOLES 7, RED SOX 1

BOSTON (AP)—Colton Cowser drove in four runs, Corbin Burnes allowed two hits over seven innings as Baltimore won in Boston's home opener.

Cowser had a pair of RBI doubles, the second driving in two runs in the fourth to break a 1-1 tie. He added a sacrifice fly in the eighth to help the Orioles stop a two-game skid.

Burnes (2-0) struck out six and walked two, giving up Tyler O'Neill's sixth homer of the season in the first inning. O'Neill began the season by homering for his fifth straight opening day, a major league record.

Adley Rutschman, Anthony Santander and Cedric Mullins added RBI singles for the Orioles.

Baltimore finished with 13 hits and scored its first four runs with two outs. The Orioles were 8 for 15 with runners in scoring position.

WHITE SOX 7, GUARDIANS 5

CLEVELAND (AP)—Dominic Fletcher hit a two-run double in the eighth inning as Chicago snapped a five-game losing streak with their first road win over the Cleveland.

Fletcher's shot to right-center off Scott Barlow (0-2) broke a 5-5 tie as the White Sox finally broke out of an early season offensive funk.

Chicago scored five runs in the first and got the big hit when it needed one.

Steven Wilson (1-1) struck out the side in the seventh, and Michael Kopech struck



Detroit Tigers' Kerry Carpenter, left, scores on a single by Jake Rogers off Pittsburgh Pirates relief pitcher David Bednar during the ninth inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh, Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

out four in two innings for his second save.

Josh Naylor hit a two-run homer for the Guardians, who had their winning streak stopped at five and dropped to 8-3.

BREWERS 9, REDS 5

CINCINNATI (AP)—Christian Yelich and Blake Perkins each drove in three runs, helping Joe Ross and Milwaukee beat Cincinnati.

Perkins and Sal Frelick each had three of Milwaukee's 13 hits. Jake Bauers had two RBIs.

Ross (1-0) earned his first big league win since June 29, 2021, for Washington against Tampa Bay. The 30-year-old right-hander allowed three runs, two earned, and five hits in 6 1/3 innings in his second start of the season.

Tyler Stephenson had two hits and two RBIs for Cincinnati, which beat Milwaukee 10-8 on Monday night in the opener of the four-game series. Spencer Steer, Jake Fraley and Christian Encarnacion-Strand also had two hits apiece.

YANKEES 3, MARLINS 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Carlos Rodón allowed two unearned run in six-plus innings, Alex Verdugo homered and New York beat Miami to match their best 12-game start.

New York won its fourth straight and improved to a major league-best 10-2, equaling the starts of the Yankees in 1922, 1949 and 2003.

Miami dropped to 1-11 for the first time since losing 11 in a row after an opening victory in 1998. The Marlins are the first team to lose 11 of its first 12 since Baltimore in 2010.

BLUE JAYS 5, MARINERS 3

TORONTO (AP)—Bo Bichette hit a two-run homer, Chris Bassitt pitched 6 2/3 effective innings to win for the first time in three starts this sea-

son and Toronto beat Seattle.

Isaiah Kiner-Falefa had three hits and an RBI, Cavan Biggio reached base three times and George Springer drove in a pair as the Blue Jays won their second straight.

The Blue Jays are 5-2 this season when they homer, and 4-1 when they outthit their opponent. Toronto had 11 hits to Seattle's six.

Mitch Haniger hit a two-run homer and Dominic Canzone added a solo shot for the Mariners. Seattle has lost three in a row and six of seven.

DODGERS 6, TWINS 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Tyler Glasnow tied his career high with 14 strikeouts in seven scoreless innings, and Los Angeles beat Minnesota.

James Outman and Will Smith each hit a three-run homer as Los Angeles won for the third time in four games. Mookie Betts walked three times and scored a run.

Glasnow (3-0) struck out Matt Wallner looking to end the seventh inning, marking the third time in his career he picked up 14 strikeouts. He also accomplished the feat for Tampa Bay last season against the Red Sox and in April 2021 against Texas.

Twins left fielder Austin Martin collected his first major league hit in the third, looping a double to right-center off the glove of Outman. Martin also doubled in the sixth off Glasnow.

BRAVES 6, METS 5

ATLANTA (AP)—Ronald Acuña Jr. scored three runs and stole three bases, Reynaldo López threw six scoreless innings and Atlanta held off the New York.

The Braves led 6-0 before Pete Alonso hit a three-run homer off Tyler Matzek in the eighth. Atlanta closer Raisel Iglesias gave up two runs in the ninth, including Omar

Narváez's run-scoring double, but earned his second save. Iglesias struck out Alonso with a runner on to end the game.

López (1-0) earned the No. 5 spot in Atlanta's rotation after signing a \$30 million, three-year contract on Nov. 30. The right-hander, primarily a reliever the last two seasons, has a 0.75 ERA through two starts. He had six strikeouts while allowing three hits and three walks against the Mets.

New York right-hander Dedniel Núñez, recalled from Triple-A Syracuse before the game, gave up one run over two innings in his major league debut.

CARDINALS 3, PHILLIES 0

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Sonny Gray tossed five innings in his St. Louis debut and shut out Philadelphia.

Gray (1-0) allowed five hits, struck out five and walked none. The 34-year-old right-hander threw 43 of his 64 pitches for strikes.

Philadelphia right-hander Zack Wheeler (0-2) permitted three runs and six hits in seven innings. He struck out five and walked one.

ROYALS 4, ASTROS 3

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Salvador Perez hit a game-ending single in the 10th inning, and Kansas City beat Houston for their fifth consecutive victory.

Garrett Hampson began the Kansas City 10th on second as the automatic runner, replacing Vinnie Pasquantino. Hampson raced home when Perez led off the inning with a single to center against Wander Suero (0-1).

James McArthur (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings for the win.

Perez and Nelson Velázquez each had two hits for the Royals. Bobby Witt Jr. and Maikel García each drove in a run.

ATHLETICS 4, RANGERS 3

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Shea Langeliers hit three home runs, including a two-run drive in the ninth inning that lifted Oakland over Texas.

Langeliers, a 26-year-old who entered with 29 career big league homers, hit solo drives in the second off Nathan Eovaldi and in the seventh against David Robertson.

Texas led 3-2 in the ninth when Seth Brown walked with one out off José Leclerc (0-2) and Langeliers sent a first-pitch fastball to left-center for his fourth home run this season.

Michael Kelly (1-0) threw a perfect eighth inning, and Mason Miller pitched a perfect 1-2-3 ninth for Oakland's first save this season.

Texas went ahead when Marcus Semien homered on the first pitch from Alex Wood and Josh Smith hit an RBI single on Wood's sixth.

Jonah Heim homered in the second and Evan Carter in the seventh against Mitch Spence.

DIAMONDBACKS 3, ROCKIES 2

DENVER (AP)—Corbin Carroll homered on the second pitch of the game, Merrill Kelly tossed six solid innings and Arizona gave manager Torey Lovullo his 500th career victory with a win over Colorado.

Lovullo, who is in his eighth season and is the longest-serving manager in franchise history, got the milestone after Arizona had dropped five in a row.

Randal Grichuk also went deep and Gabriel Moreno had four hits—including two doubles—to back another quality outing from Kelly. He has pitched at least five innings in 32 straight starts, the second-longest active streak in the majors behind Pittsburgh right-hander Mitch Keller (34).

Ryan Thompson got four

outs and Kevin Ginkel worked a clean ninth inning for his first save of the season.

The Rockies got one back in the bottom of the first when Ezequiel Tovar scored on Ryan McMahon's groundout, but Grichuk homered leading off the second against his former team. It was his first of the season.

RAYS 6, ANGELS 4

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—José Caballero had three hits and two RBIs, Isaac Paredes homered and the Tampa Bay beat the Los Angeles Angels despite Mike Trout's sixth home run.

Harold Ramírez also drove in a pair for the Rays, who have won three of four.

Aaron Civale (2-1) allowed only two more hits after Trout's two-run shot in the first. The right-hander gave up three runs (two earned) in five innings with four strikeouts. The four earned runs Civale has permitted in three starts have come on three homers.

Pete Fairbanks earned his first save despite giving up an RBI single to Luis Rengifo in the ninth. The Angels had runners on first and second with two outs, but Miguel Sanó struck out looking.

Trout has homered in three straight games for the 15th time in his career.

NATIONALS 5, GIANTS 3

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—CJ Abrams homered and drove in three runs after missing three games with a bruised left pinkie, and Washington beat San Francisco.

Riley Adams added an RBI double and Jacob Young had two hits and three stolen bases as Washington won its sixth in a row against San Francisco.

Patrick Bailey and Nick Ahmed drove in runs for the Giants, who lost for the seventh time in nine games.

Washington's Joan Adon allowed one run in four innings in his season debut. The right-hander was recalled from Triple-A Rochester to start for Josiah Gray, who was placed on the 15-day injured list with a flexor strain in his right arm.

CUBS 5, PADRES 1

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Christopher Morel hit his first career grand slam and Yan Gomes also connected for Chicago who beat San Diego.

Right-hander Ben Brown pitched well in his first big league start but not long enough to get the win. He was pulled after 4 2/3 scoreless innings and 77 pitches, with the bases empty. He allowed three hits while striking out five and walking one.

San Diego's Eguy Rosario connected for a pinch-hit homer leading off the sixth against Drew Smyly (2-1), his second.

Future football ambassadors beautify Saipan sign



With last month's unveiling of a new look for the iconic Saipan sign in Marpi, young footballers have taken to the field to help beautify the popular photo spot in the Marianas.

Twenty-nine youth of the Junior National Academy, a special training program for U14 players coordinated by Northern Mariana Islands Football Association in partnership with Japan Football Association's Dream Courage to Achieve, helped landscape the site on March 28, 2024. The match was set when JNA reached out to the Marianas Visitors Authority looking for an opportunity to give back to the community.

"Every effort makes a difference, so kudos to JNA head coach Jersh Angeles for reaching out to the MVA and connecting football with community with tourism through this environmental stewardship proj-



MVA

Young footballers of the Junior National Academy in the Marianas plant flowers and trees in Marpi as part of the program's community engagement program. JNA is a special training program for U14 players coordinated by Northern Mariana Islands Football Association in partnership with Japan Football Association's Dream Courage to Achieve.



MVA

The CNMI Division of Forestry and Marianas Visitors Authority facilitate an opportunity for young footballers of the Junior National Academy in the Marianas to plant flowers and trees in Marpi on March 28, 2024. JNA is a special training program for U14 players coordinated by Northern Mariana Islands Football Association in partnership with Japan Football Association's Dream Courage to Achieve.

ect with the youth," said MVA Product Development manager Raquel Aguon. "Improving our destination is a lot like training for a chance to join the national football team...it's often small, consistent, and targeted effort to bring about big results. We thank the JNA trainees for their contribution and wish them luck as future ambassadors of the Marianas."

The MVA coordinated the project in partnership with the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry, who provided the plants, water, and tools to complete the project. The young athletes, ages 10-12, planted croton plants, hibiscus, and a flame tree and learned proper techniques on how to transfer the plants from the flowerpots to the ground.

NMIFA regularly sends teams to represent the Marianas in international competitions. (PR)

NMI

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the better team that day.

As far as the tournament as a whole, Guerrero said, "it was a really good tournament, everyone was very happy we were there and were very accommodating. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and it was really nice to also play with great players from the Philippines and always a good time playing with our brothers and sisters from our neighboring island of Guam."

For Tsukagoshi on winning the best player award, she said it felt "really good." She added, "The trophy looks very nice and I am happy to be the one having it."

Even as she said the venue



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The NMI's Shaina Malonzo stretches for a return during the open women's doubles against the Philippines during the 2024 Guam-Philippines Badminton Invitational Challenge that was held from last Friday to Sunday at the Guam Badminton Sports Center.

layout was a little weird for her, she still thought the competition was great.

Tsukagoshi is also a tennis player and right after her competition in Guam, rushed to the American Memorial Park tennis courts when she landed last Monday to play in the North Pacific Regional Championships.

She won her first game but said she didn't play well because she was "super tired."

"Going back and forth between badminton and tennis is really difficult because I always have to stress on managing my time if my tennis and badminton schedule collides," said Tsukagoshi when asked how it felt to play both tennis and badminton.

CK

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Pegs were still out of reach at the end of the third quarter though as a flurry of back-to-back shots were made by Ryan Bayna, Manuel Bondad, and Mark Aycardo.

It wasn't over yet as the Saints seemingly gained otherworldly powers in the last quarter and picked up the tempo with minutes remaining. It was a nailbiter until the end as J.R. Thongaram and Jeff Yugummang sunk 4 points to get past Pegs by just 3, 86-83.

The Saints' L. Rock Reyes put up the most points with 17, Eli Aughenbaugh has 14 markers, and Yugummang scored 11. Pegs' Bayna had a game-high 29 points, Mark Enano had 12 points, and Bondad ripped 11.

Last Monday, the old band of Brothers cruised past Ol'Aces, 68-54.

The Brothers found their rhythm and unmatched chemistry early on and had a 2-0 lead about three minutes into the game. Ol'Aces finally woke up about five minutes in and the game got rolling then.

It was back-and-forth between the two as they kept each other close with shots answered from both teams and ended the first at just a 2-point Ol'Aces lead, 17-15.

Ol'Aces were then rooted in the second quarter and scored just 4 points as the Brothers zigged and zagged past them. By halftime, the Brothers had a 16-point cushion to work with heading into the final half of the game.

After their disappointing performance in the second

quarter, Ol'Aces tried hard to bounce back and took their shots from the 3-point line to at least get a little closer to the Brothers. Despite their efforts though, the merry band of Brothers skipped to the fourth quarter, 58-34.

In the end, the Brothers' Tony Diaz racked up the most points with 22, followed by Shane Deleon Guerrero's 11, and Gerald Flores' 8. Ol'Aces' Melvin Sakisat Jr. had 15 of his own, while Jawny Joyner scored 11.

In other results last Saturday, Bridge Capital drubbed 670 Akkari EET 1, 77-59, and Team Marianas blew Shirley's out of the court, 182-23. Also last Monday, La Mesa Kusina beat 670 Akkari Ruuw 2, 80-68.

SATURDAY

CK Saints 86 – L. Rock Reyes 17, Aughenbaugh 14, Yugummang 11, Tengco 9, Galarce 8, Thongaram 8, Luzi Reyes 5, Blas 5, Manibusan 5, Ybanez 2, Omelau 2.

Pegs 83 – Bayna 29, Enano 12, Bondad 11, Aycardo 8, Kintz 8, Hizon 5, Camacho 4, Sy 2, Malonzo 2, Domine 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-19, 28-41, 52-62, 86-83.

MONDAY

Brothers 68 – T. Diaz 22, Deleon Guerrero 11, Flores 8, E. Diaz 8, Juan Diaz 6, Aranda 4, Mendiola 4, A. Diaz 2, Lizama 2, Jon Diaz 1.

Ol'Aces 54 – Sakisat Jr. 15, Joyner 11, Fiden 7, Kapwich 7, Kabiriel 7, Castro 3, Joab 2, Atoigue 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-17, 37-21, 58-34, 68-54.

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boys 16 No. 3 Nason Wessel trounced teammate and No. 2 seed June Yu, 6-2, 6-4. Girls 16 second seed Irin Chung then blew out Federated States of Micronesia's Aja Skilling, 6-0, 6-0, after she beat teammate and No. 4 Hannah Chae, 6-3, 6-2, earlier in the day.

In the boys 14 division, unseeded Matthew Hwang of the NMI pulled off an upset against compatriot and No. 3 Ian Chae, 6-3, 6-0. In the girls 14 division, No. 2 Lina Tsukagoshi defeated Guam's Rachel San Agustin in twin 6-3, 6-3 sets, and Jenna Pascual blanked FSM's Neyla Lekka, 6-0, 6-0.

For the boys U12 team division results, the NMI boys team racked up a win against FSM boys, 3-0 after Michael Jeon defeated Noah Hawley, 6-0, 6-1; Daniel Kang and Matt Zhu beat Noah and William Hawley, 6-0, 4-6, 16-14; and Daniel Kang



LEIGH GASES

From left, NMI's doubles partners Michael Jeon and Matt Zhu pose with Guam's double partners after their U12 game last Tuesday on Day 3 of the North Pacific Regional Championships yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

routed Roney Chigiyal, 6-4, 6-2.

A total of 25 of the islands' top 16-and-under tennis players are challenging the best from Guam, Palau, Nauru, and FSM during the six-day tourney organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association and funded by the Oceania Tennis Federation and International Tennis Federation.

Matches will be played until Saturday, April 13.



LEIGH GASES

The NMI's Kiwon Lee, right, smiles with Guam's Leonardo Tamandong after their matchup yesterday on Day 3 of the North Pacific Regional Championships yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



Mavericks
beat Hornets
as Luka Dončić
scores 39 in
triple-double.

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Future
football
ambassadors
beautify
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMI claims 3 silvers in Guam-PH Badminton Challenge

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The NMI's badminton team bagged three silver medals in the 2024 Guam-Philippines Badminton Invitational Challenge that was held from last Friday to Sunday at the Guam Badminton Sports Center.

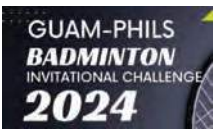
Badminton players from Guam, the CNMI, and the Philippines stormed the badminton courts during the weekend with three silver medals for Team NMI—one in the open mixed doubles, open women's doubles, and U15 mixed doubles.

In the open mixed doubles, veteran badminton players Nate Guerrero and Janelle Pangilinan were the duo to be reckoned with, but settled for silver in a three-set matchup against Guam's Russel Enriquez and

the Philippines' Jenny Wang, 21-14, 19-21, 17-21.

For the open women's doubles, Pangilinan teamed up with Shaina Malonzo and clinched silver after their match against formidable foes, the Philippines' Queenie Yason and Ghiselle Bautista, 14-21, 8-21.

In the U15 mixed doubles, Lina Tsukagoshi paired up with Guam's Philip Noret, and stumbled in a three-set matchup against Guam's duo of Johnson Xia and Offeia Yordi.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The NMI's badminton contingent poses for a photo with their silver medals and best player trophies after the 2024 Guam-Philippines Badminton Invitational Challenge held from last Friday to Sunday at the Guam Badminton Sports Center. From left, coach Ezekiel Macario, Janelle Pangilinan, Shaina Malonzo, Lina Tsukagoshi, and Nate Guerrero.

Top seeds cruise on Day 3 of NPRC

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The No. 1 seeds in the boys 16 division and boys and girls 14 divisions cruised to wins on Day 3 of the North Pacific Regional Championships yesterday at the American Memorial Park and Pacific Islands Club Saipan tennis courts.

Siwoo Lee, the No. 1 seed in the boys 16 division, went *mano-a-mano* against teammate and No. 4 seed Henry Choi. Under the high noon blazing sun, both boys rallied and tried to get the better of

the other. Choi notched one against Lee and won the first set, 6-4. Lee then came back with all guns blazing and mirrored Choi, 6-4. Lee then secured the win as he finally silenced Choi, 6-0 in the third set.

Anne Lee, the No. 1 seed in the girls 14 division, scooped an easy win against Palau's Kiara Tellei, 6-0, 6-1. Earlier, boys 14 top seed Jihun Park started the day off with a thrilling three-set matchup against teammate Ryan Choi, and beat him in a close 6-2, 1-6, 10-7 game.

In other results, the

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LEIGH GASES

The NMI's Siwoo Lee smacks a return against compatriot Henry Choi during their matchup on Day 3 of the North Pacific Regional Championships yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

CK Saints and Brothers hauled in wins in the 2024 Michelob Ultra Cup (men's open division) last Saturday and Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Saints got off to a rough start last Saturday, but came back in the last quarter for an upset over the game-leading Pegs in



thrilling fashion, 86-83.

In a slow-going first half for the Saints, they started off the third quarter trailing by 13 points, 28-41. But the half-time break was just what they needed as they put the gear on overdrive and made smooth shot after smooth shot to whittle Pegs' lead down.

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CK Saints, Brothers haul wins in Michelob Cup



LEIGH GASES

O'Acres defenders foul Brothers' Gerald Flores as he goes for a layup during their game in the 2024 Michelob Cup last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.